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BADGER™



Dear LARRY,:

C/O FIRST COMICS
435 N. LASALLE
CHICAGO IL
60610

Dear Rick:

I was very disappointed at your answer to Matt Lehman's letter in issue #11. Badger has never been a title for the squeamish or close-minded, and in the end this type of creative attitude has given this publication a little honesty it should be proud of. But instead of backing up your creators in this instance, you concede to Mr. Lehman's point of view. I sincerely hope this is not the wave of the future for Badger or First Comics.

Bill D. Middleton
1010 Connelly
Clovis, NM 88101

Yow! This is a switch. I'm used to people complaining about my responses because I have this tendency to print critical letters and then blow them off nonchalantly (a personality flaw which I vacillate between trying to correct or refine); but nobody's ever taken me to task for "conceding" to a reader's criticism. Give me a minute to recover.

Okay. I'm feeling better now.

Bill, if you'll go back and read my response, you'll see that I only "conceded" that Mr. Lehman had a valid point of view and had presented it well.

But I will admit that I frequently ask Mike Baron and Bill Reinhold to tone down some of the more graphic acts of violence. I also ask Mike to rework some plots and Bill to redraw some panels that have absolutely nothing to do with violence, gratuitous or otherwise. I don't do it to appease a hypothetical audience; I do it based on my own editorial judgment of what is in the best interest of the story being told. That's what it means to be an "editor."

Mike, Bill, Keith, and Everyone Else:

The recent installment of the Badger (#12) was, as always, terrific. The art is suffering a bit without Dee inking, but otherwise a very excellent issue.

The only thing I do find wrong with the series is the plotting --unless Mike finds a way to tie up all the broken knots in the story-rope. I like the idea of Lord Waterlackus and the Hodag in the main story, but what will they accomplish there? In other words, why are they here? And who the hell are they (besides a wizard with a white supermacist sidekick)? Please don't let this go on to long.

CEA
Irondequoit, NY 14622

Well, so much for my editing capabilities.

Dear Larry:

Before I get impolite, let me point out

Dear Reader:

If you're interested in other First comics not available where you purchased this book, you can find all First publications at Comic Specialty Stores throughout the country. Consult the yellow pages for the comics outlet nearest you.

that I wouldn't be writing to Badger if it wasn't one of my favorite superhero comics. Unlike my latecomer status with Nexus, I have followed the adventures of Badger right from the beginning. I mention this so that any criticisms I might offer will be recognized as coming from someone who is an enthusiastic Badger follower.

And now, to the point:

Back-up features can't be cavalierly dismissed with a "who needs 'em." Some, like Dr. Strange or Dynamo Joe develop into major attractions of their own. I must admit I buy certain comics because of the secondary feature. I only buy Grimjack for Munden's Bar, for example, or Action Comics when Ambush Bug is in it.

But generally speaking, a comic consumer buys a title for the title character, not for an unrelated secondary feature. Surely, the editors of First Comics were wise in relocating the Black Flame out of the pages of Mars.

Now Mike, I appreciate your recent comment that you are doing your best on Zoomtown, and I admit that I am judging it not on its own merits but on the merit of what is being displaced by it. Unfair, okay sure, but I want more Badger.



So why ain't I happy with 20 pages of Badger every month which is, obviously, more Badger than 28 pages every other month? Let's talk money. Bi-monthly means six great full issues of Badger for \$10.50 per year. Monthly means more total pages but several badly paced stories that frustrate the reader with a cliff-hanger right at the point where the story's really getting good, for \$21.00 per year.

You asked "which would you rather have," and since you phrased the question, this is my answer: I'd just as soon stick with a full-length issue of Badger every other month.

Randy H. Crawford
911 Park Street. SW
Grand Rapids, MI 49504

It's interesting to note that you feel Dynamo Joe in Mars was a good idea while Black Flame in the same book was a bad idea, despite the fact that neither back-up was in anyway related

to the lead feature. But that just emphasizes the point you so aptly make: it's not so much the concept of back-up features but the content.

And to be perfectly honest, it was unfair of me to ask if people would rather have 28 pages of the Badger every other month or 20 pages every month -- because the hard reality is that monthly books sell much better than bi-monthlies (with or without back-ups), creative talent can't make much of a living on six issues a year, and we have no intention of shifting the Badger back to bi-monthly status.

We will, however, be ending Zoomtown in issue #18.



NEXT MONTH: The Badger's never-ending vigil against hideous creatures from another dimension takes him on an unexpected trip to Nepal for a visit with Mr. Yak and the Yeti. By Mike Baron, Bill Reinhold, and Rick Bryant.

--Rick Oliver

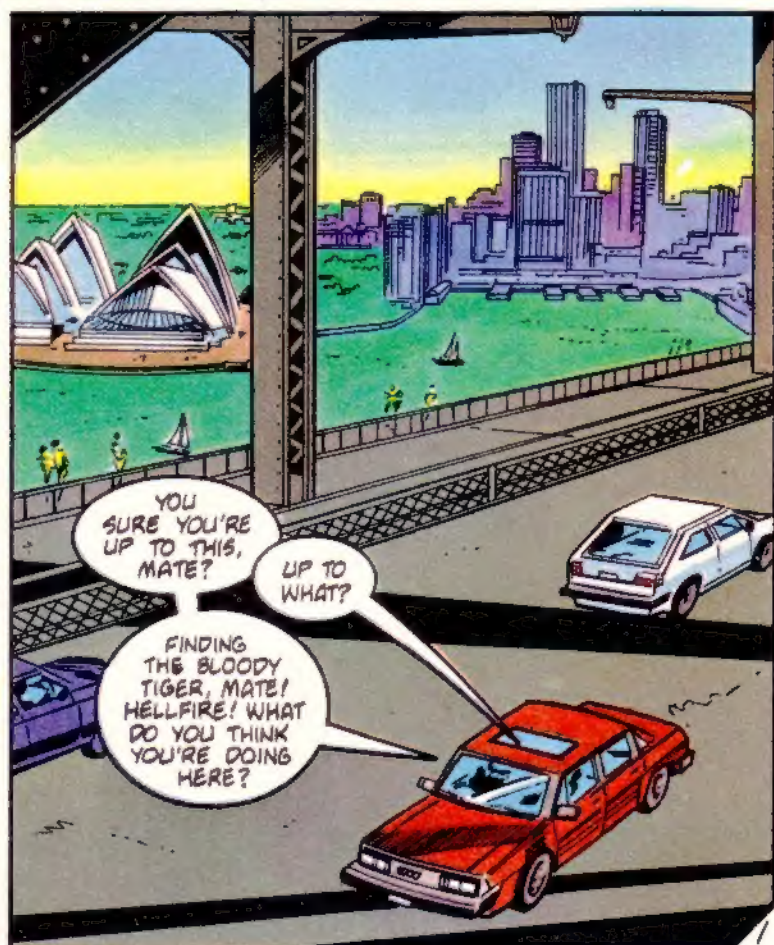
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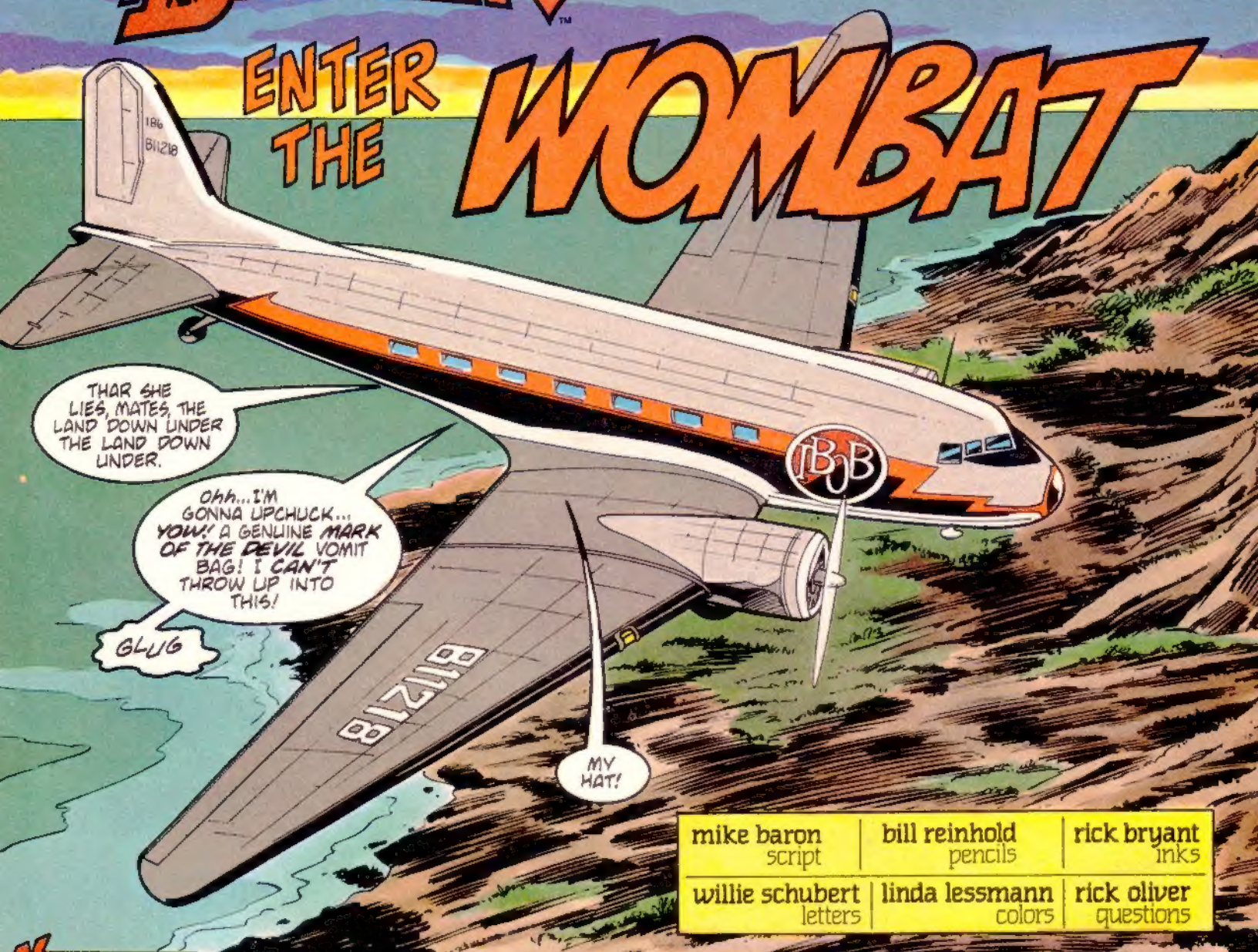




THE BADGER

ENTER THE

WOMBAT



mike baron
script

bill reinhold
pencils

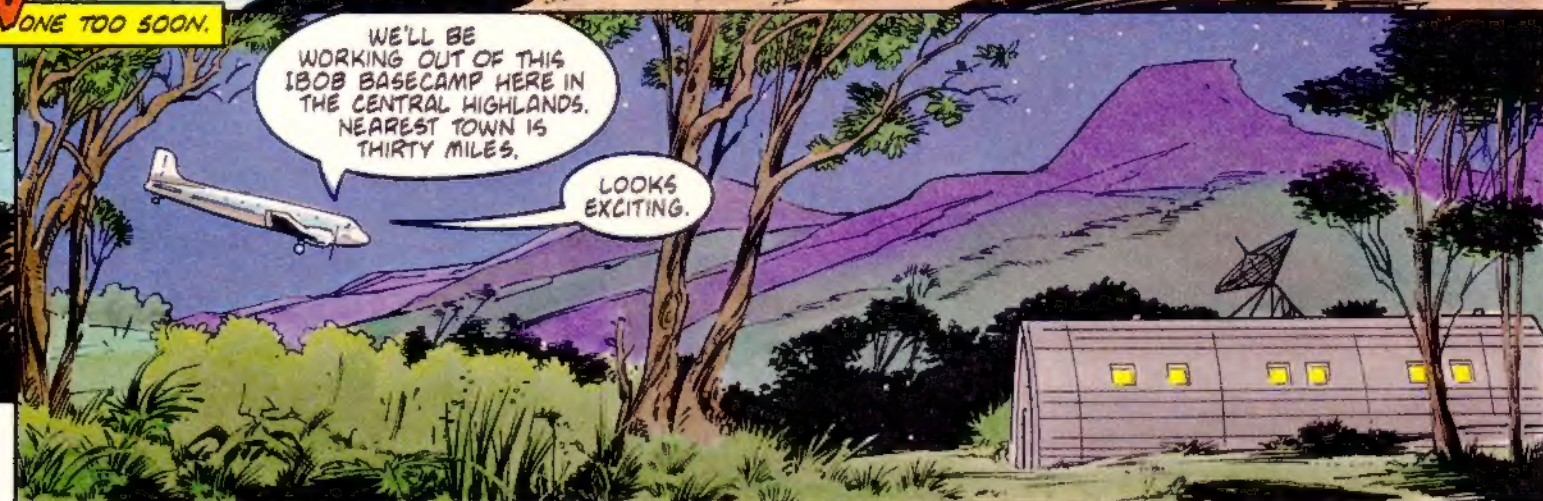
rick bryant
inks

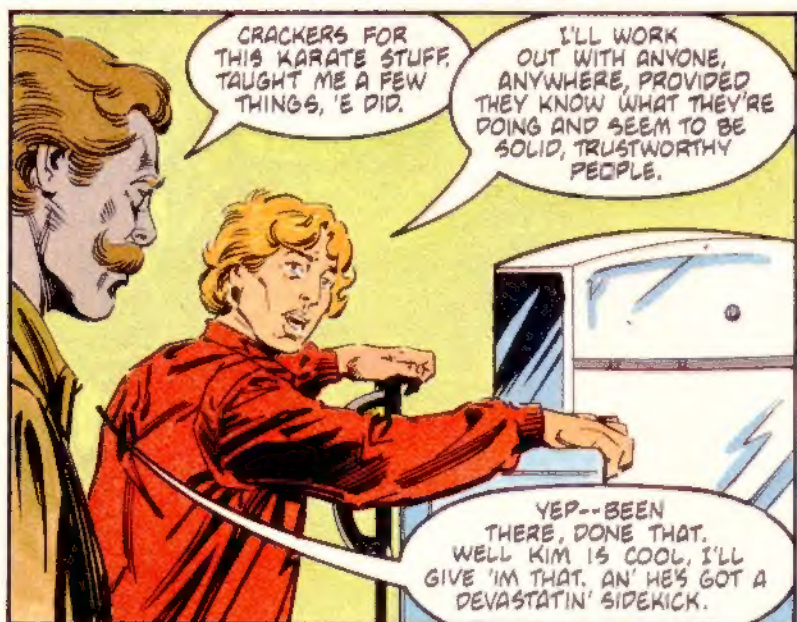
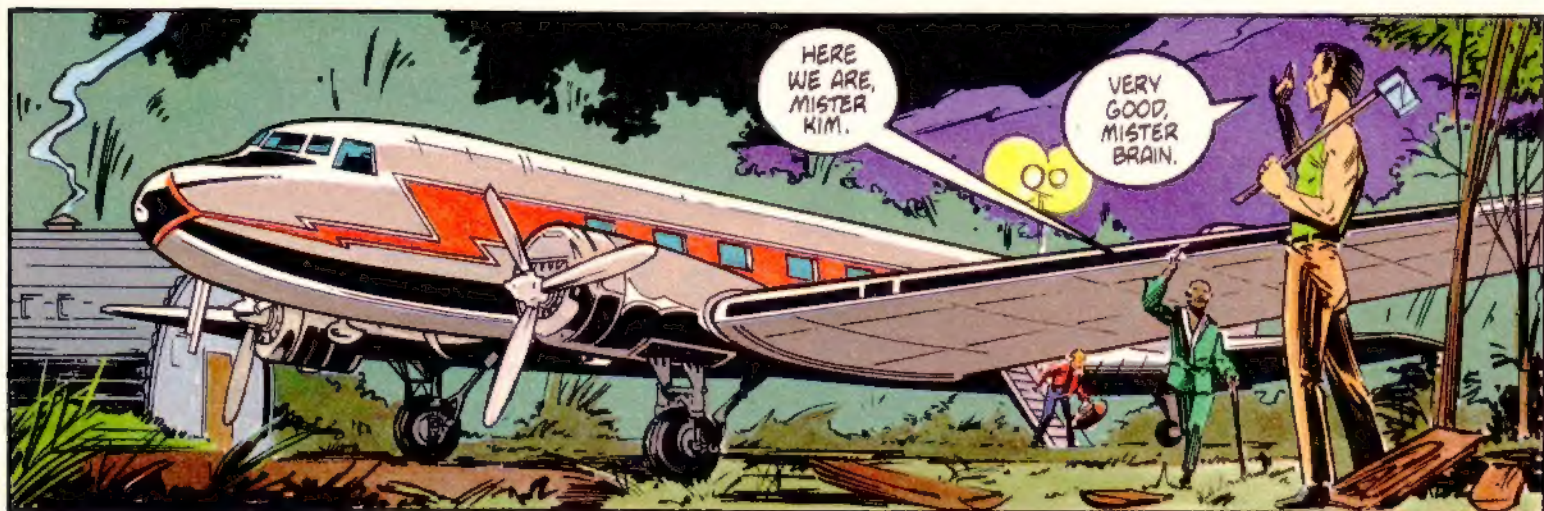
willie schubert
letters

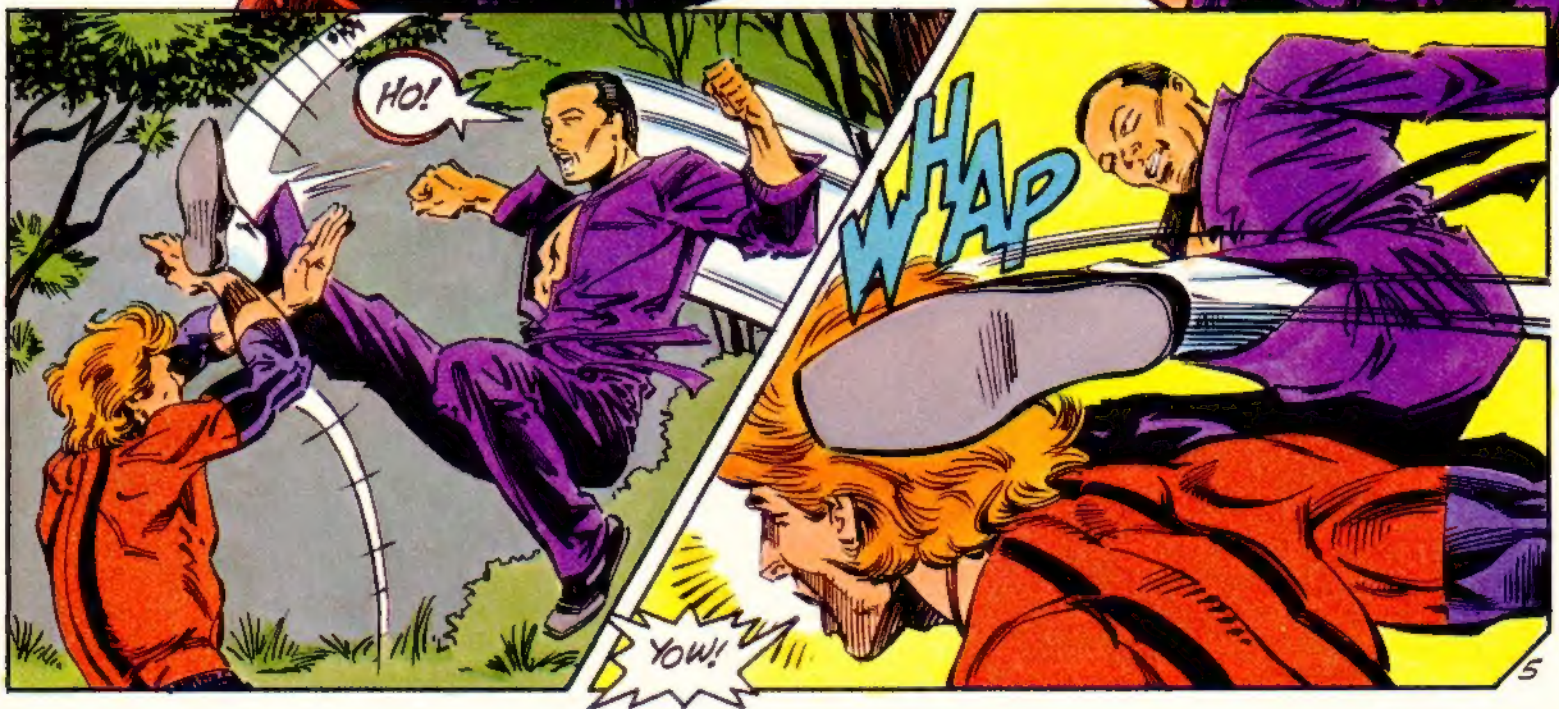
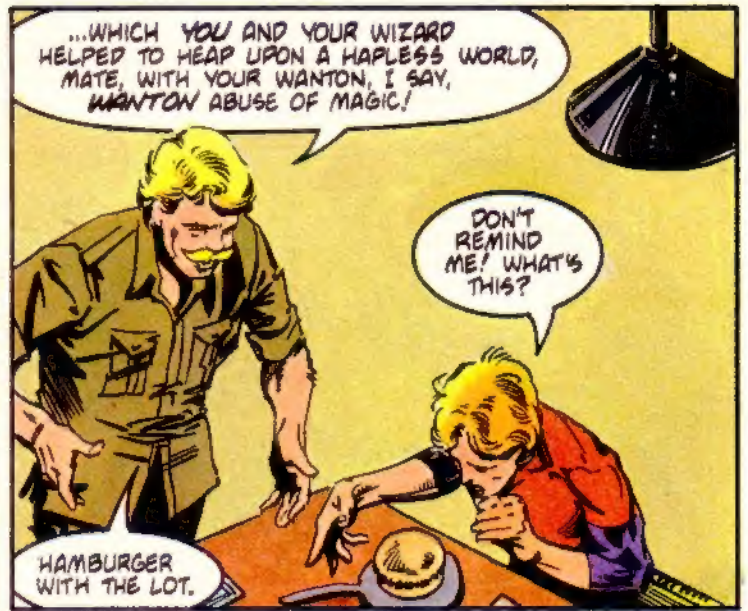
linda lessmann
colors

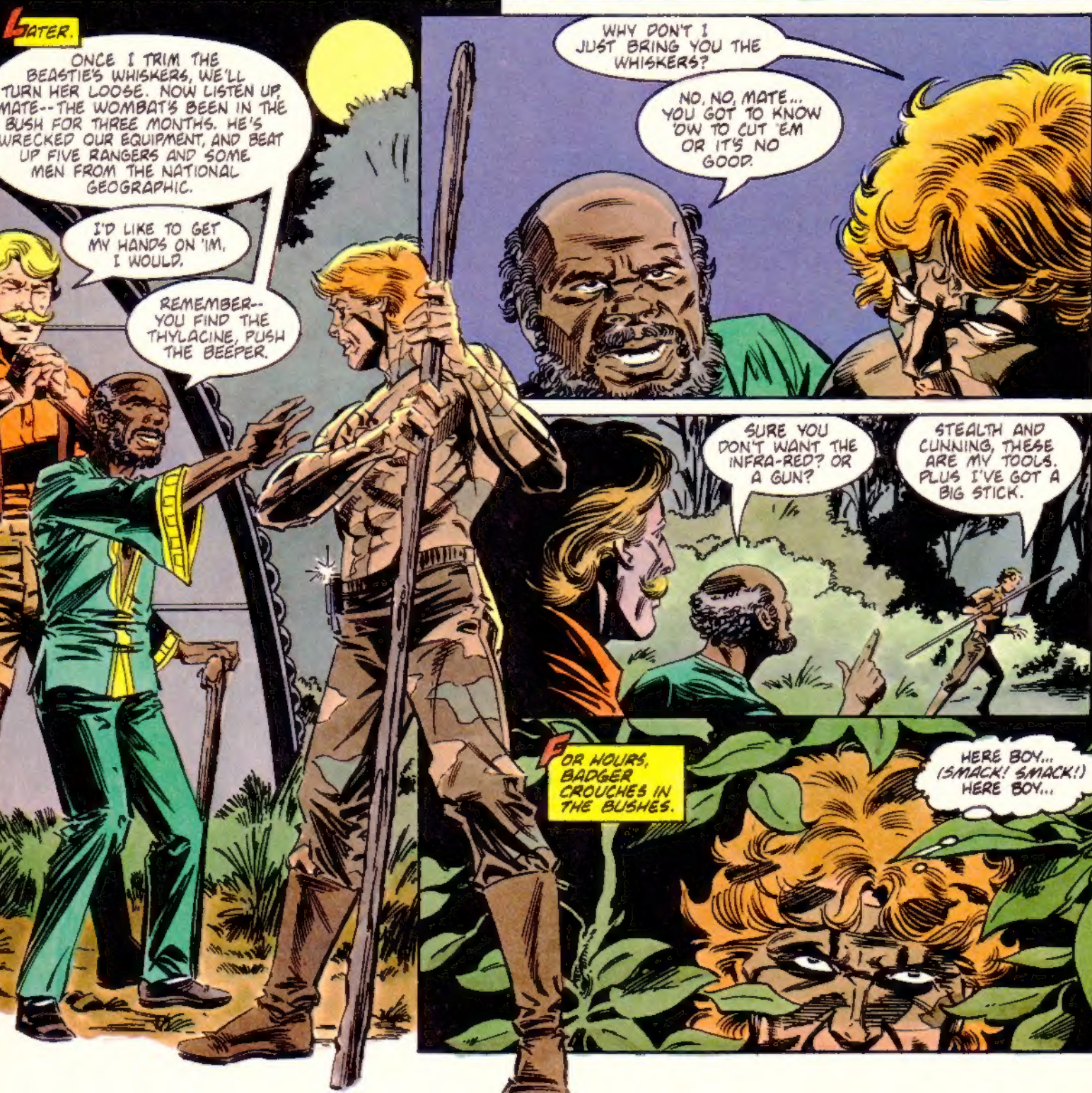
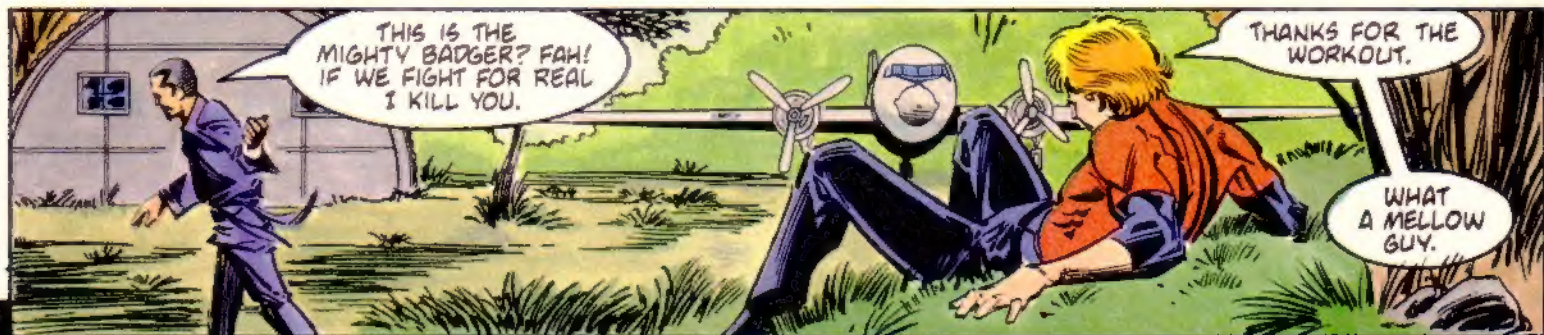
rick oliver
questions

NONE TOO SOON.











HEY! I JUST REALIZED SOMETHING! I'M A KLEIN BOTTLE FILLED WITH DARK BAVARIAN ALE!



PUT A LID ON IT, MATE. YOU'RE SCARIN' THE LITTLE DEVILS.

WHAT LITTLE DEVILS?

THE LITTLE TASMANIAN DEVILS! WHERE D'VE THINK YOU ARE?



WHEN I GOT OFF THE PLANE, I THOUGHT I WAS IN WISCONSIN.

WELL, I BEEN THERE AN' DONE THAT.

JACK?



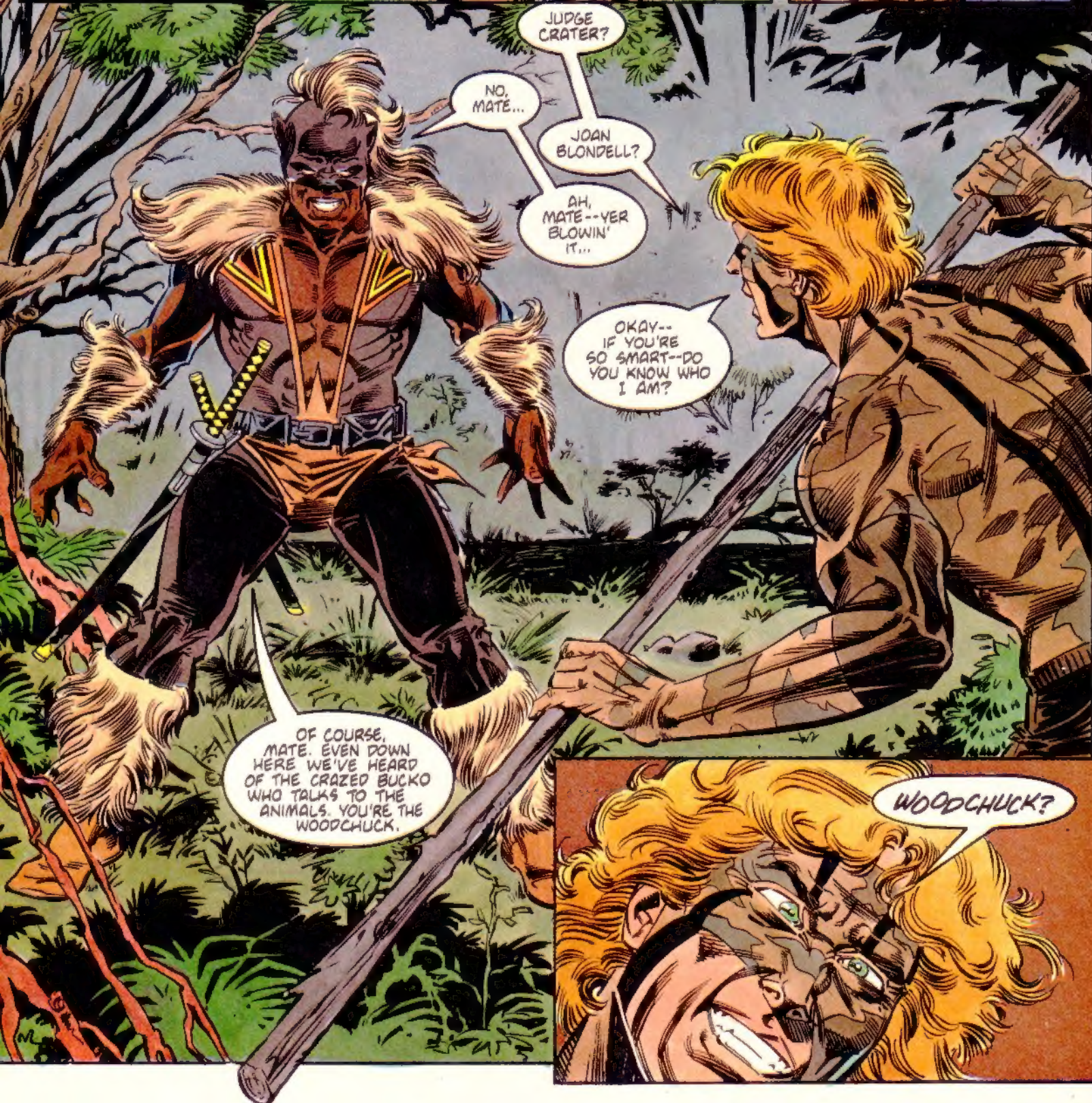
DO I SOUND LIKE JACK, MATE?

NO... BUT YOU TALK LIKE HIM.

IT'S A COMMON EXPRESSION DOWN HERE, MATE.

LYLE ALZADO?

NOPE.



JUDGE CRATER?

NO, MATE...

JOAN BLONDELL?

AH, MATE--YER BLOWIN' IT...

OKAY-- IF YOU'RE SO SMART--DO YOU KNOW WHO I AM?

OF COURSE, MATE. EVEN DOWN HERE WE'VE HEARD OF THE CRAZED BUCKO WHO TALKS TO THE ANIMALS. YOU'RE THE WOODCHUCK.



WOODCHUCK?





THREE.

YOU GOING TO HELP ME FIND A THYLACINE?



NOPE.

BUT 1808 NEEDS THE WHISKERS TO CLOSE THE GAPS BETWEEN OUR WORLD AND THE NEXT. HIDEOUS CREATURES ARE POURING THROUGH EVEN AS WE SPEAK.

WHAT HIDEOUS CREATURES?



RICHARD SIMMONS! JOHN MCENROE! MARY LOU RETTON! SALLY JESSIE RAPHAEL!

I HARDLY KNOW WHERE TO STOP!



STOP!

I DIDN'T REALIZE... BUT I CAN'T HELP YOU. TRUTH IS, EVEN I HAVEN'T SEEN A DINKUM TIGER, EVER.

THEN WHY DID YOU ATTACK THOSE NATIONAL GEO GUYS?

'CAUSE THERE MAY BE A TIGER OUT THERE, AND IT DON'T NEED NO TANT OF CIVILIZATION



WHY IF YOU WAS TO LAY A HAND ON IT-- NOT THAT YOU'D EVER GET THE CHANCE..

BUT IF YOU DID, I COULD SO TRAUMATIZE THE CRITTER AS TO MAKE REPRODUCTION IMPOSSIBLE! THE SMELL ALONE WOULD KEEP ALL POTENTIAL MATES AWAY

I DON'T SMELL THAT BAD. AND I'D GIVE IT A BATH WHEN I'M DONE.



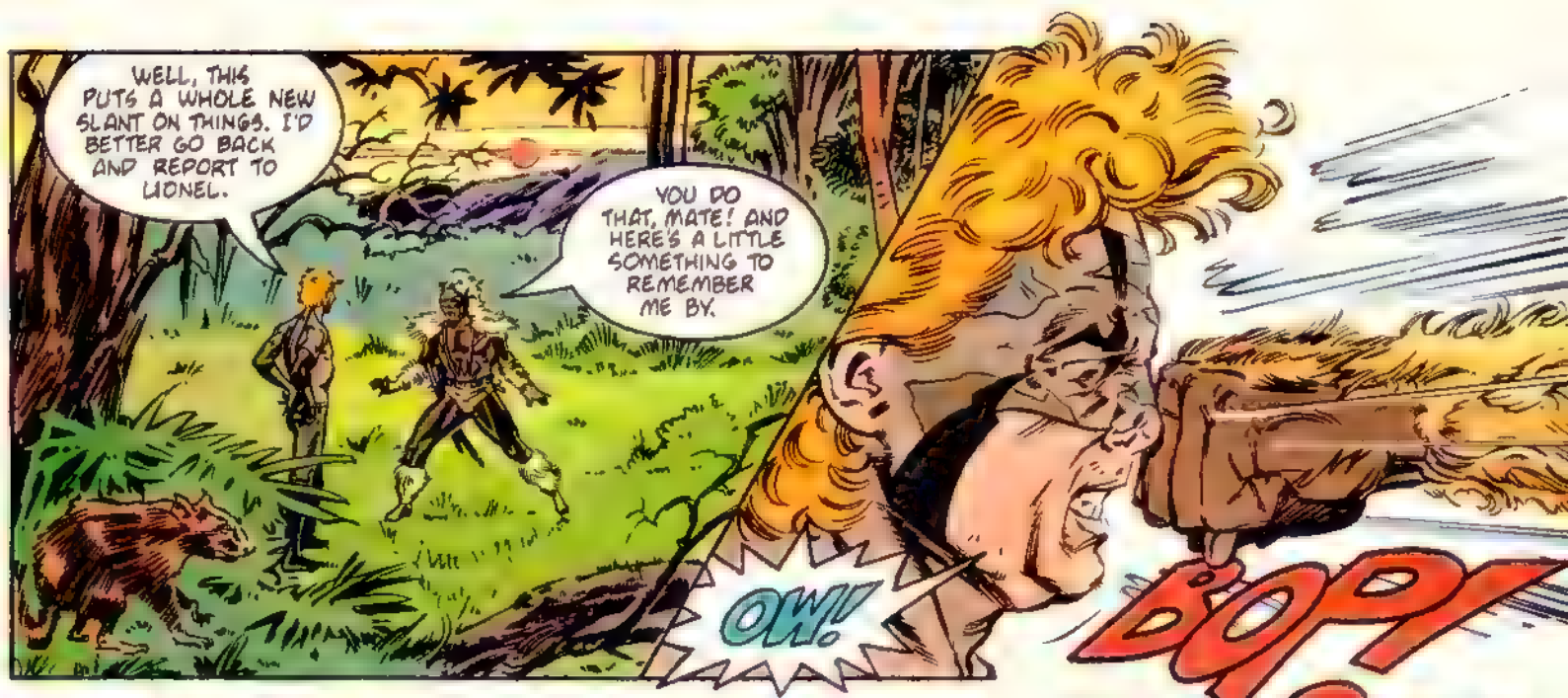
A BATH?! ARE YOU CRACKERS? IT'D CLAW YOUR FACE OFF!

THE WOMBAT CALLS THE BADGER CRACKERS? LOOK WHO'S TALKING!



'ATS R.GHT BEEN THERE, DONE THAT BUT I'VE GOT A REASON FOR LIVING AS I DO. AND WHILE I'M LIVIN', NOBODY LAYS A HAND ON THE THYLACINE.

IF THERE IS ONE

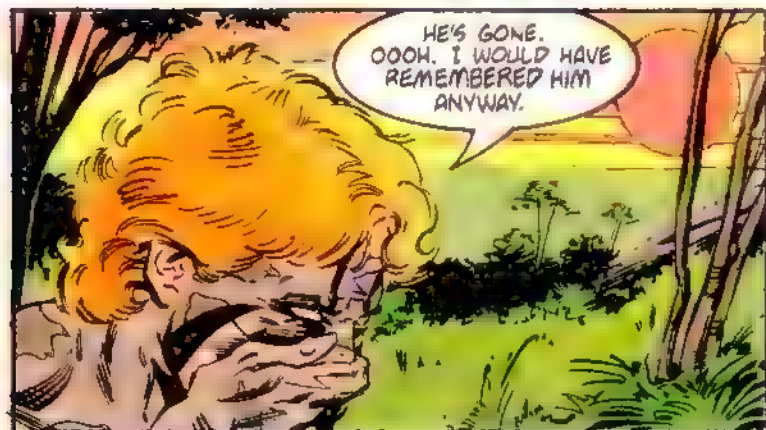


WELL, THIS PUTS A WHOLE NEW SLANT ON THINGS. I'D BETTER GO BACK AND REPORT TO LIONEL.

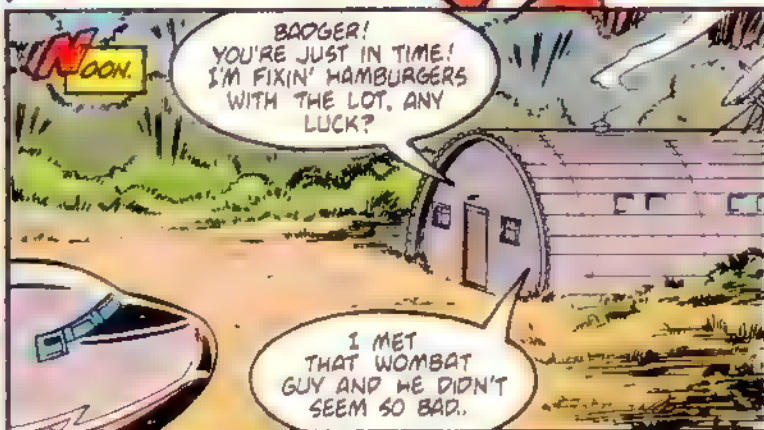
YOU DO THAT, MATE! AND HERE'S A LITTLE SOMETHING TO REMEMBER ME BY.

OW!

BOPI!



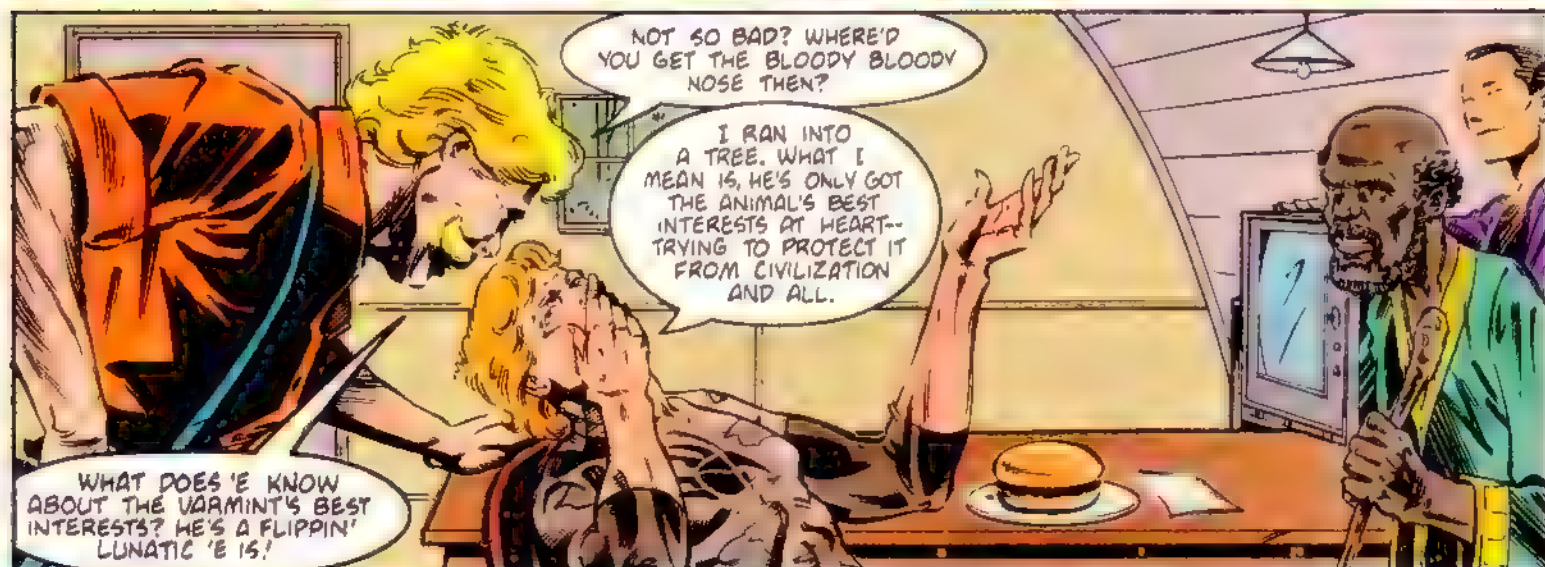
HE'S GONE. OOH. I WOULD HAVE REMEMBERED HIM ANYWAY.



NOON.

BADGER! YOU'RE JUST IN TIME! I'M FIXIN' HAMBURGERS WITH THE LOT. ANY LUCK?

I MET THAT WOMBAT GUY AND WE DIDN'T SEEM SO BAD.



NOT SO BAD? WHERE'D YOU GET THE BLOODY BLOODY NOSE THEN?

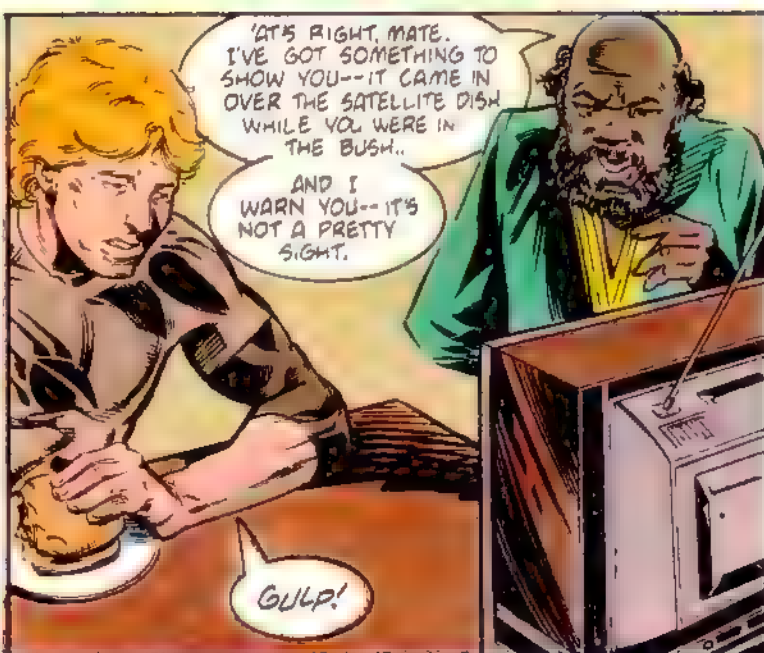
I RAN INTO A TREE. WHAT I MEAN IS, HE'S ONLY GOT THE ANIMAL'S BEST INTERESTS AT HEART-- TRYING TO PROTECT IT FROM CIVILIZATION AND ALL.

WHAT DOES 'E KNOW ABOUT THE VARMINT'S BEST INTERESTS? HE'S A FLIPPIN' LUNATIC 'E IS!



WELL, MATE, THE WOMBAT'S FOOLED A LOT O' GOOD MEN. BUT HE'S NOT TAKIN' IN THE BIG PICTURE.

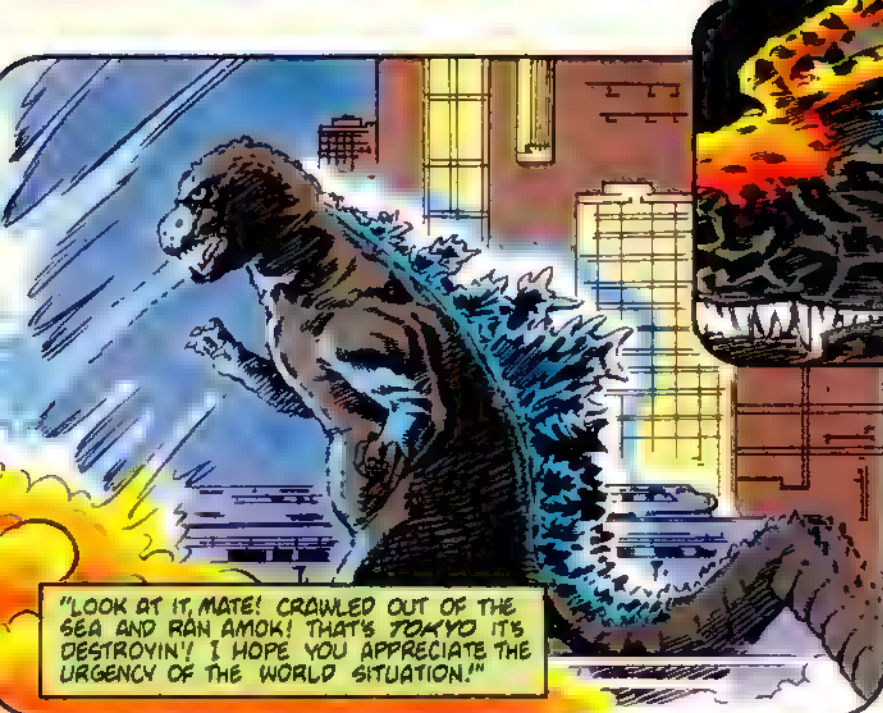
YOU MEAN THE HIDEOUS CREATURES FROM OTHER DIMENSIONS?



IT'S RIGHT, MATE. I'VE GOT SOMETHING TO SHOW YOU--IT CAME IN OVER THE SATELLITE DISH WHILE YOU WERE IN THE BUSH..

AND I WARN YOU--IT'S NOT A PRETTY SIGHT.

GULP!



"LOOK AT IT, MATE! CRAWLED OUT OF THE SEA AND RAN AMOK! THAT'S TOKYO IT'S DESTROYIN'! I HOPE YOU APPRECIATE THE URGENCY OF THE WORLD SITUATION!"



TOKYO?
(GULP!)

'AT'S RIGHT,
MATE. COULD BE
HEADED HERE,
NEXT. OR THE
STATES!

BRING ME
A TIGER AND
WE'VE GOT A
FIGHTIN' CHANCE!
I'LL SEND THAT
SCALY BRUTE
RIGHT BACK
WHERE IT CAME
FROM.



YES! NO MORE
MESSING AROUND! I'LL
BAG THE ELUSIVE THYLACINE
OR KNOW THE REASON
WHY!

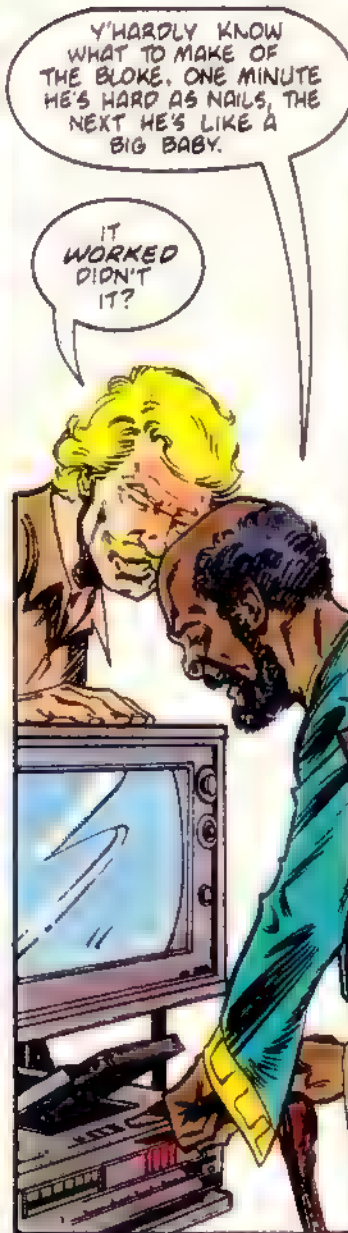
MAYBE
I'LL BAG THE
CAT AND KNOW THE
REASON WHY!
ANYTHING IS
POSSIBLE!

'AT'S
THE STUFF,
SPORT!



WATCH
OUT FOR THAT
WOMBAT.

THAT
WOMBAT
BETTER WATCH
OUT FOR ME!
WOOF!



Y'HARDLY KNOW
WHAT TO MAKE OF
THE BLOKE. ONE MINUTE
HE'S HARD AS NAILS, THE
NEXT HE'S LIKE A
BIG BABY.

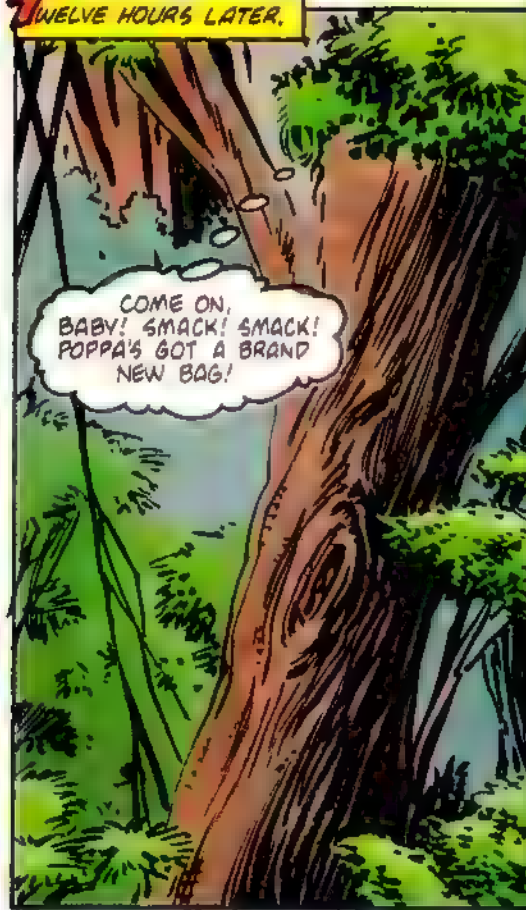
IT
WORKED
DIDN'T
IT?



I DON'T KNOW...
EVER' NOW AND THEN DON'T
YOU GET THE FEELING HE'S
JUST PLAYIN' WITH US? I
MEAN, NOBODY'S THAT
DAFT. ARE THEY?

GIODZILLA

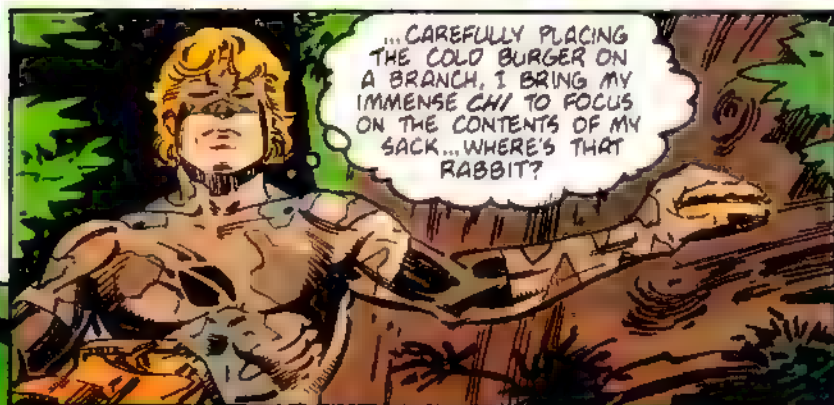
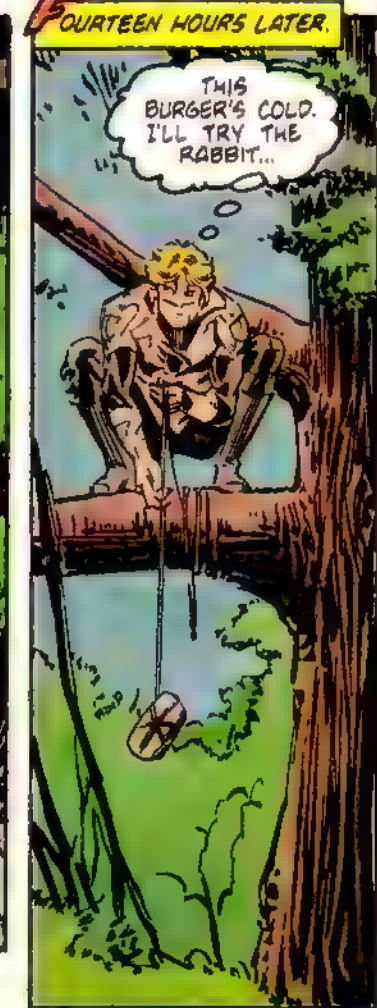
TWELVE HOURS LATER.



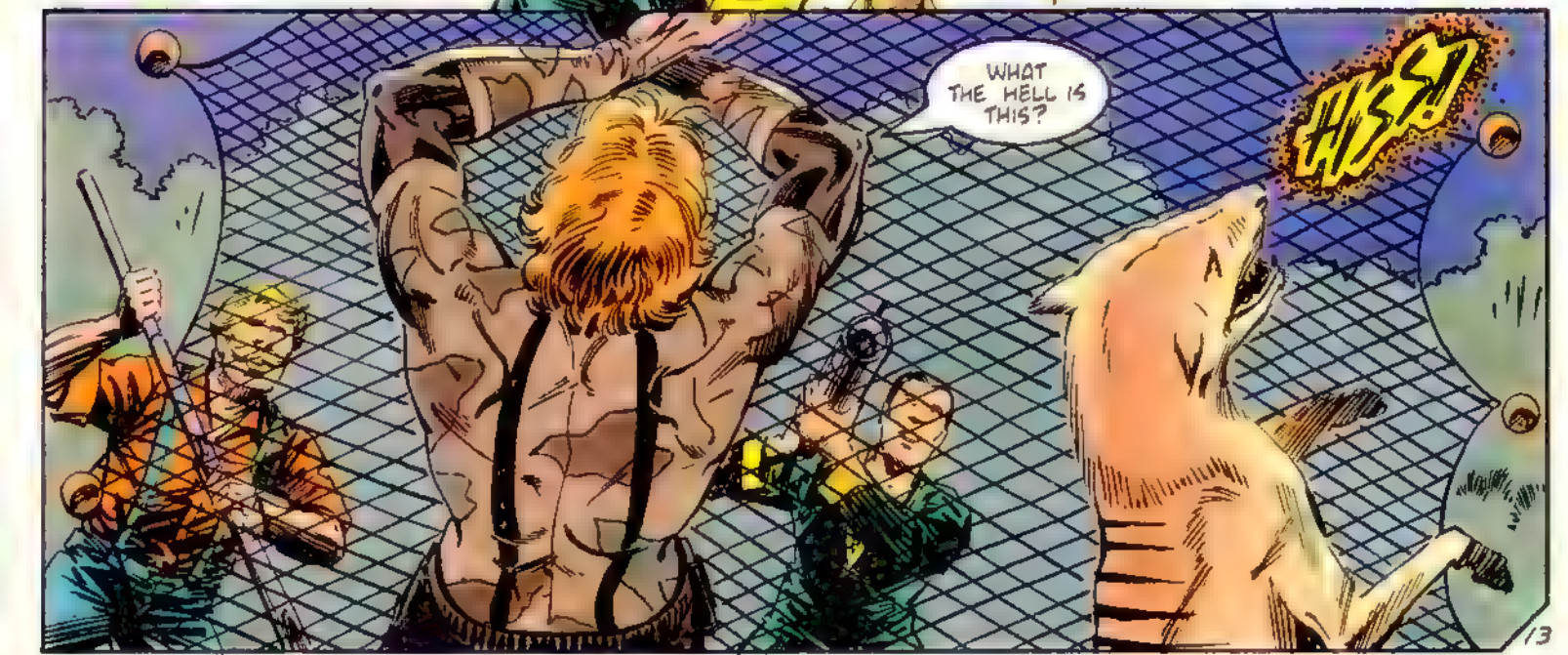
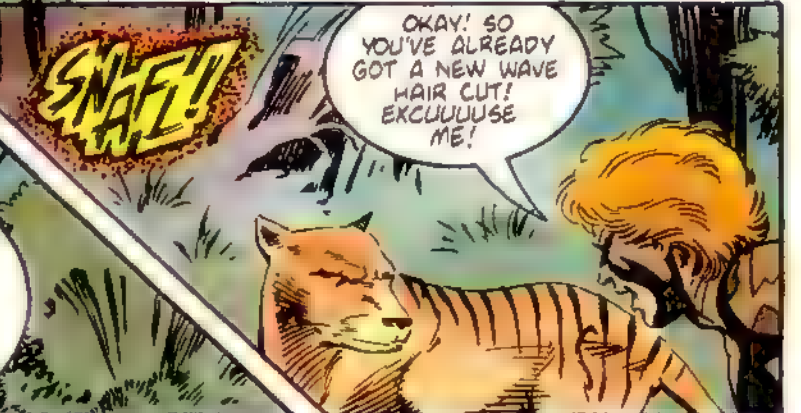
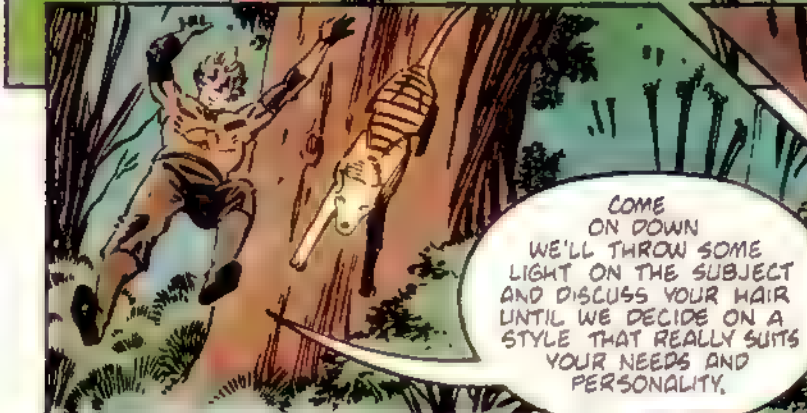
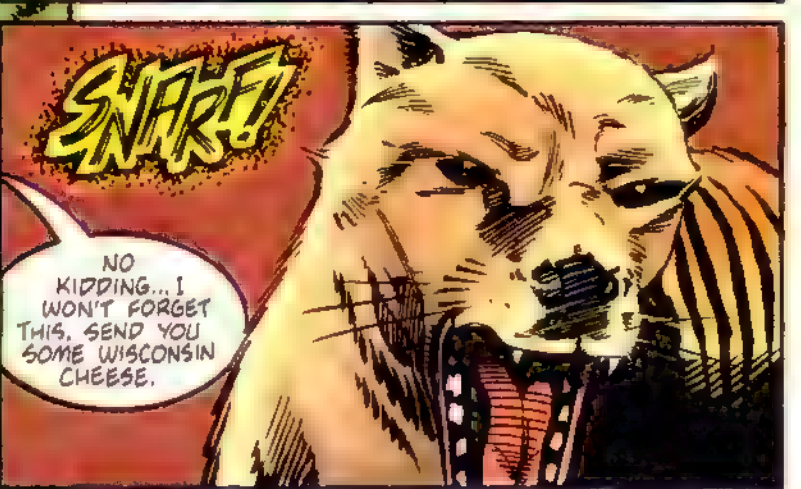
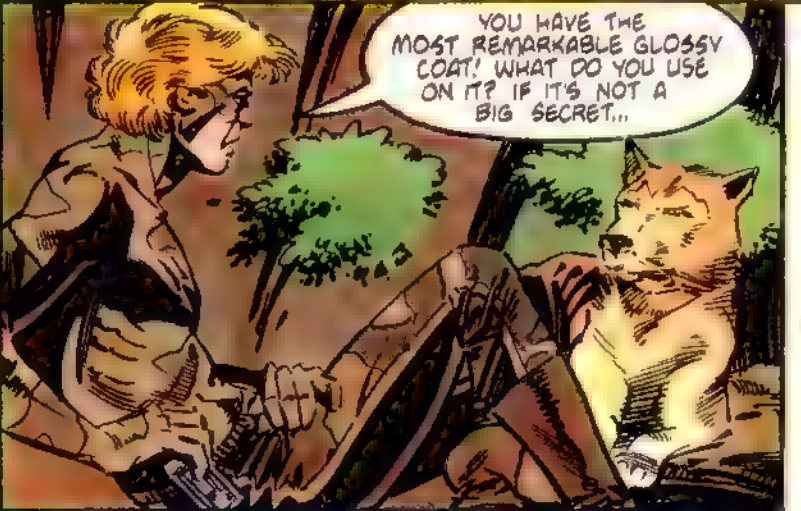
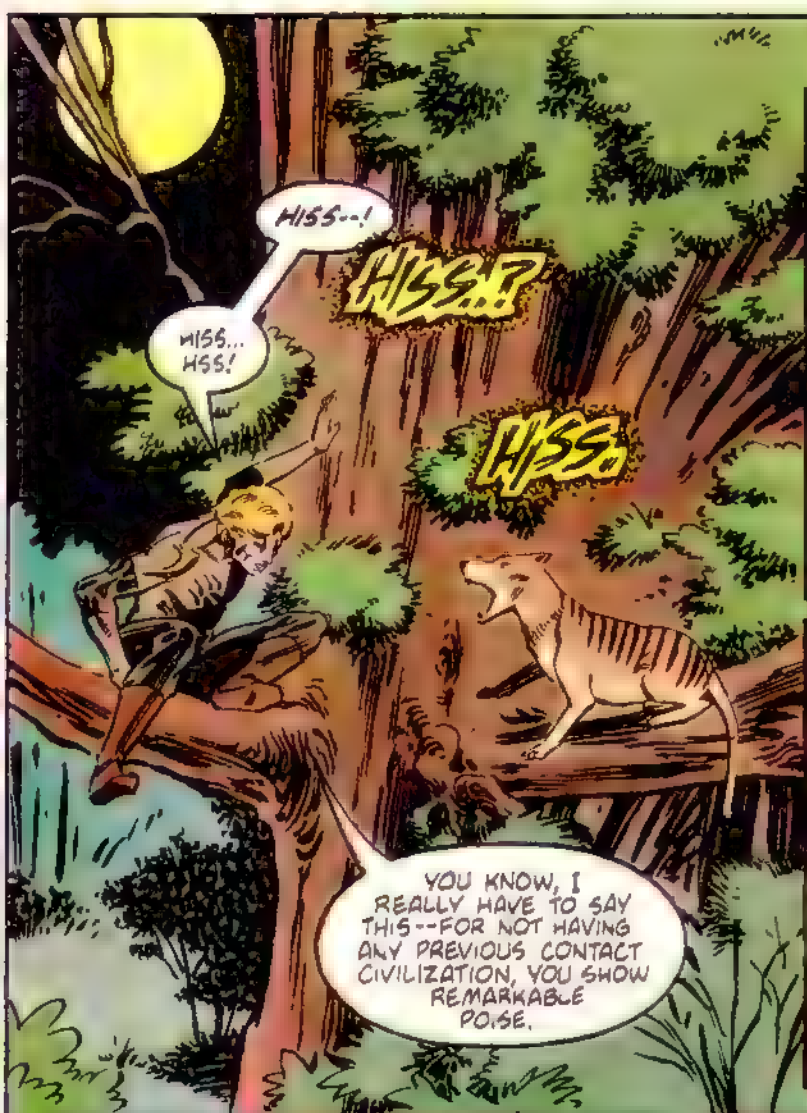
THIRTEEN HOURS LATER.

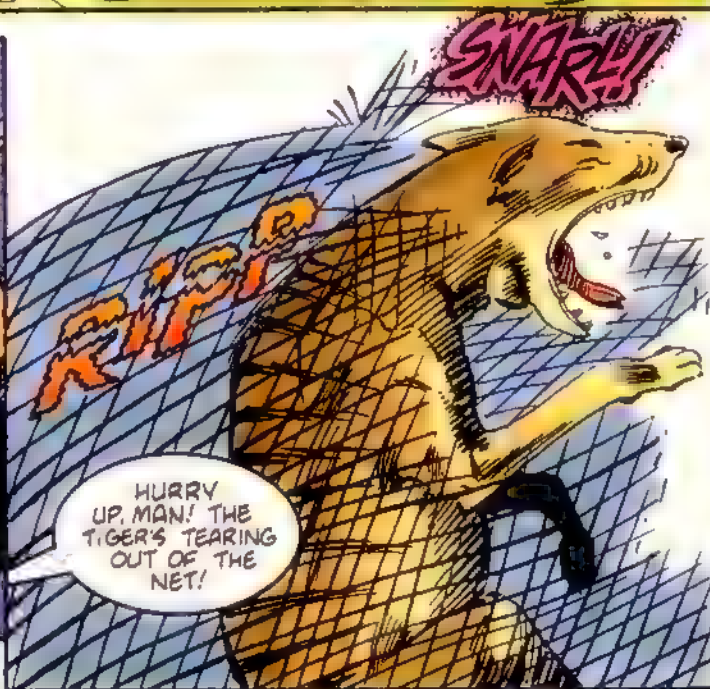
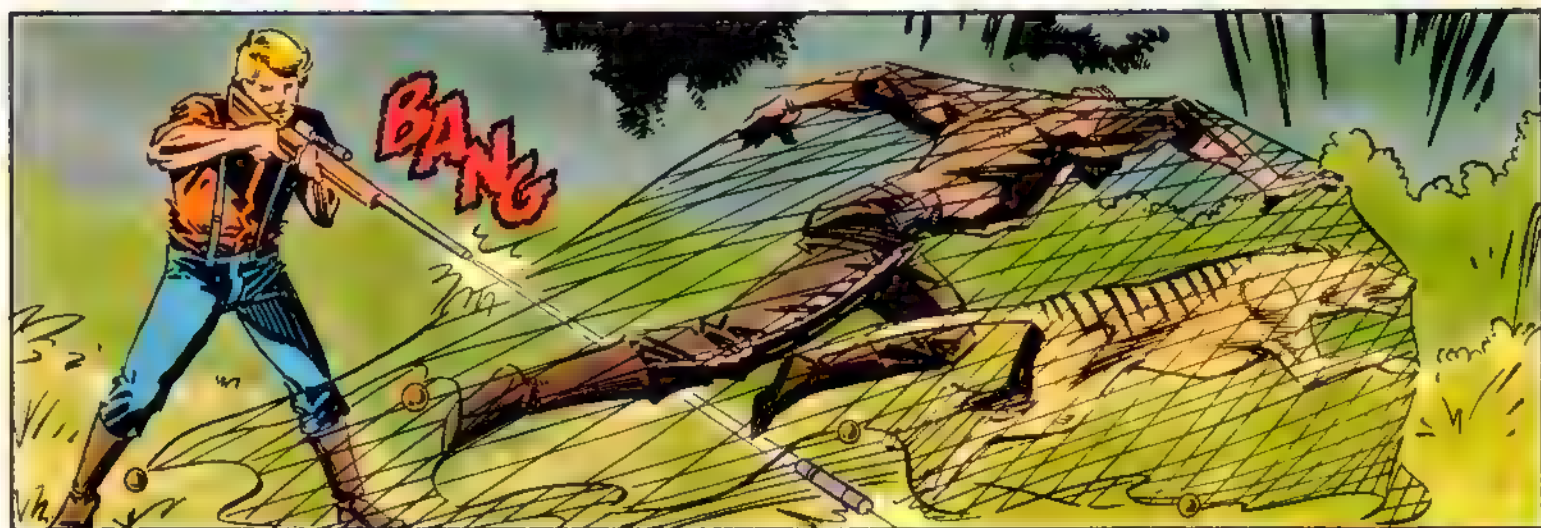
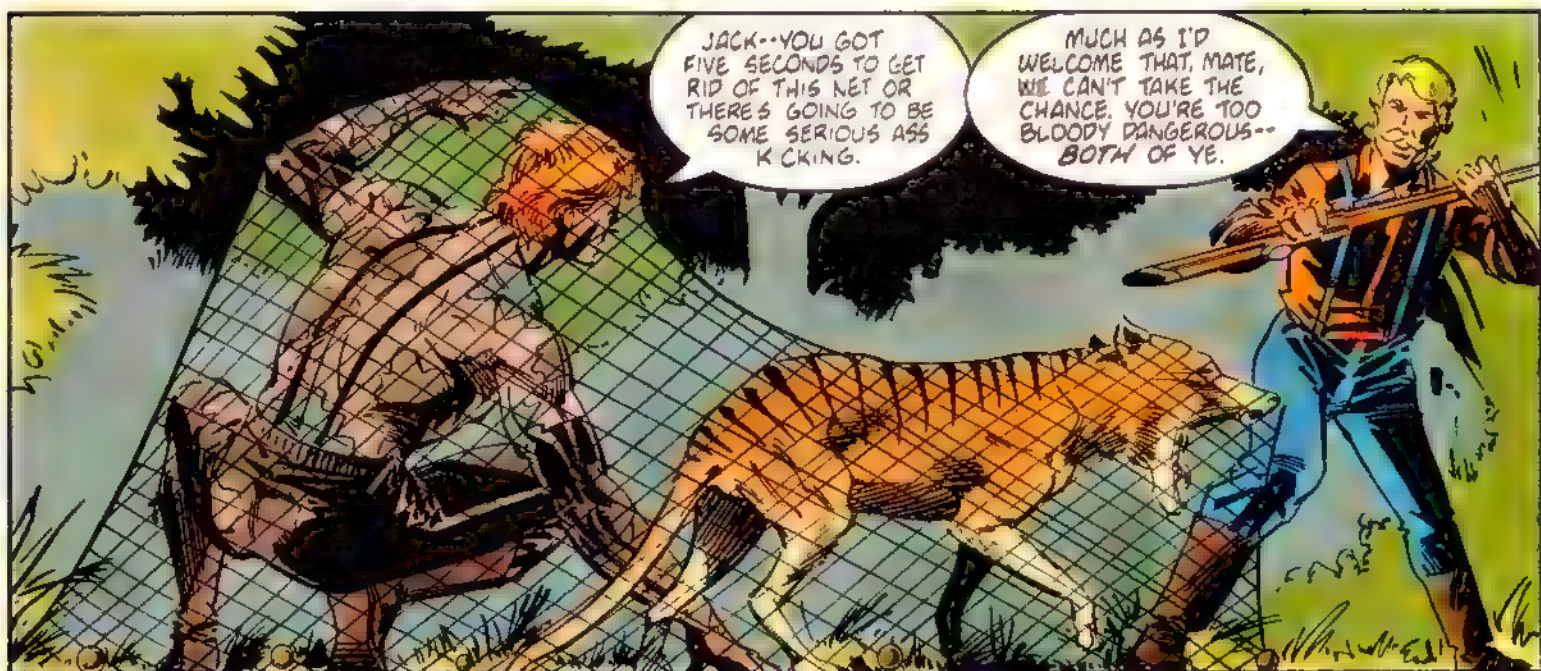


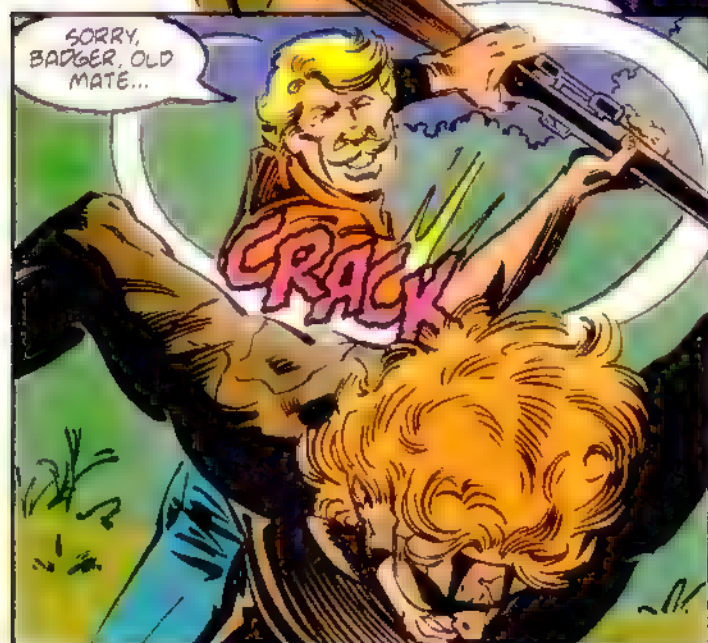
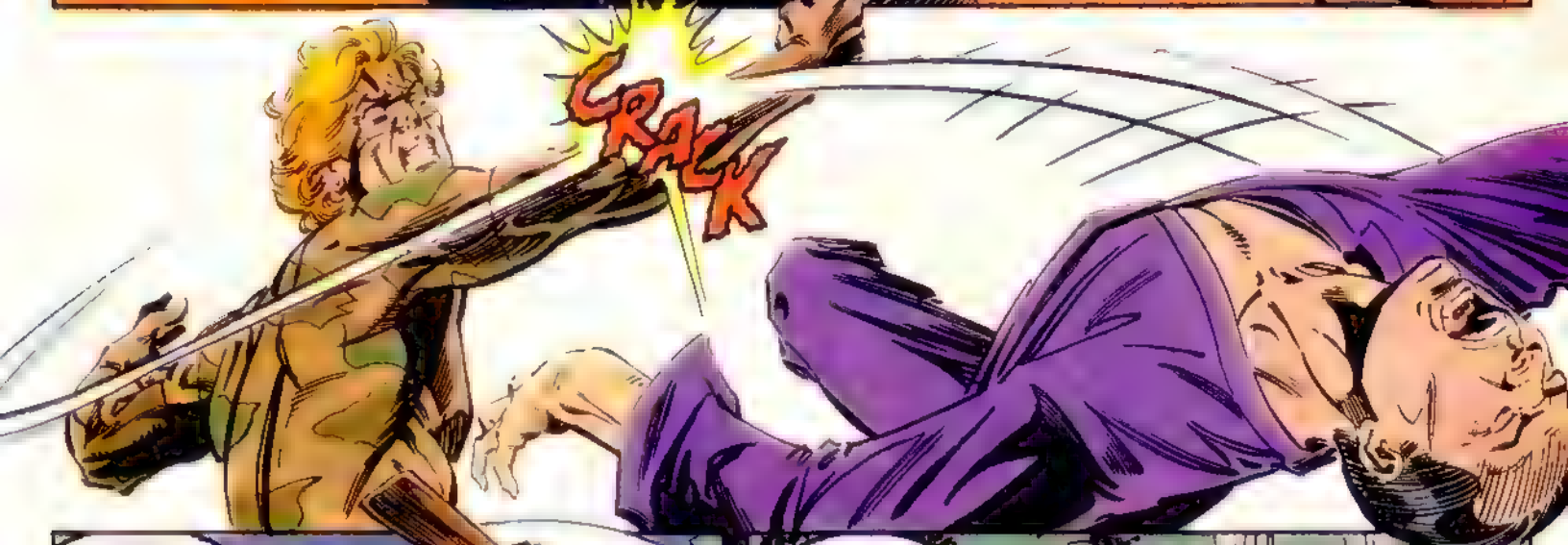
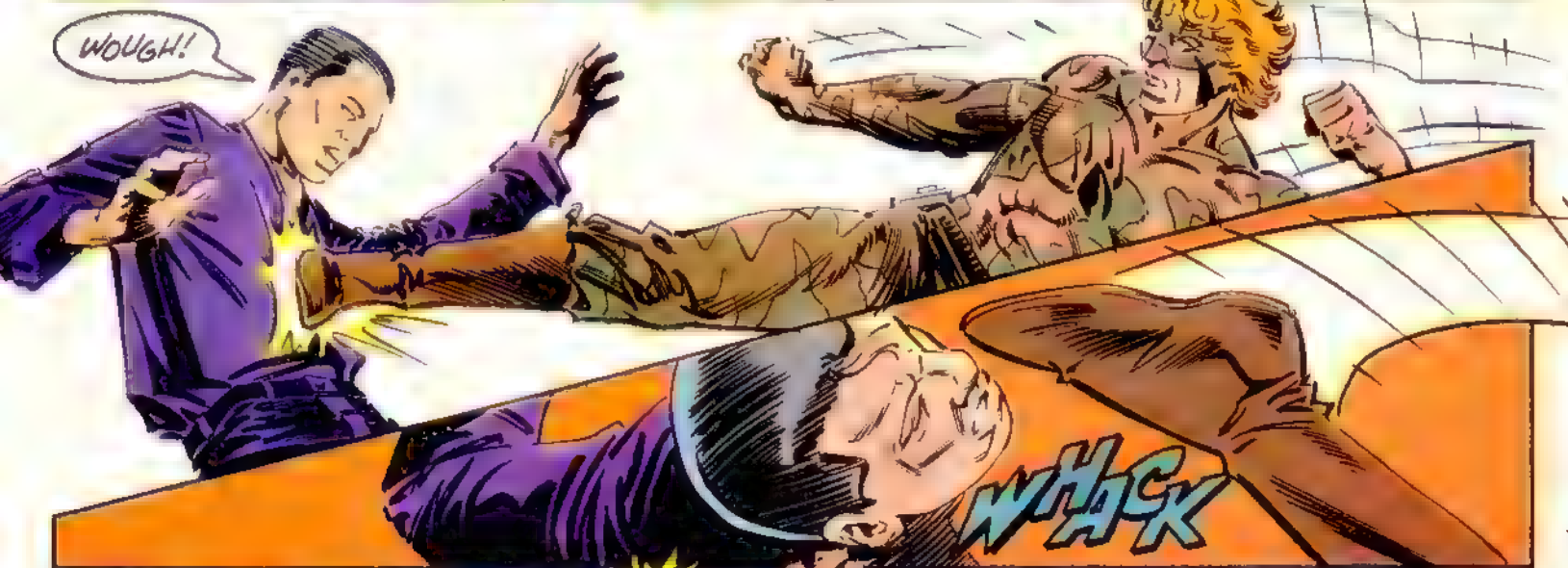
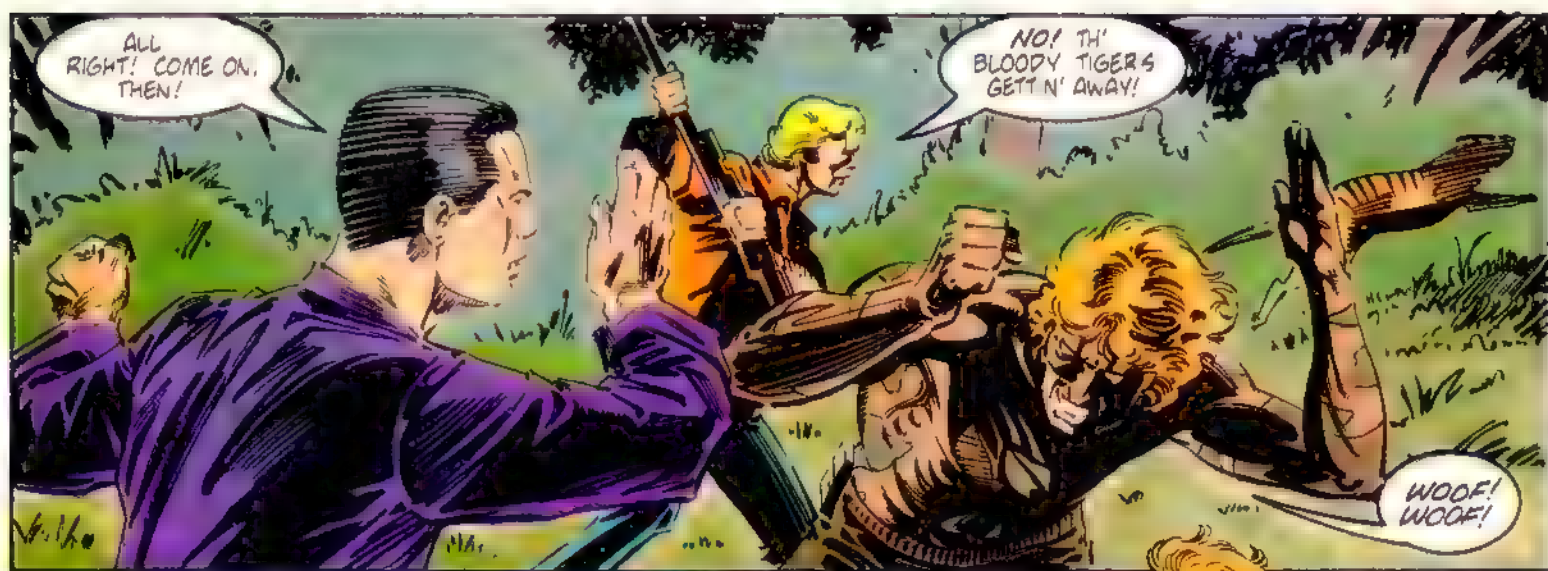
FOURTEEN HOURS LATER.

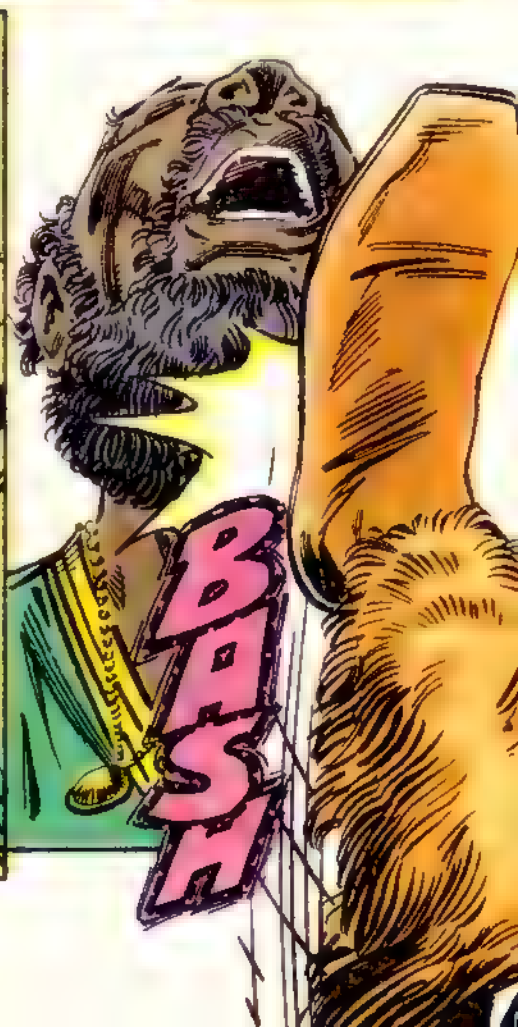
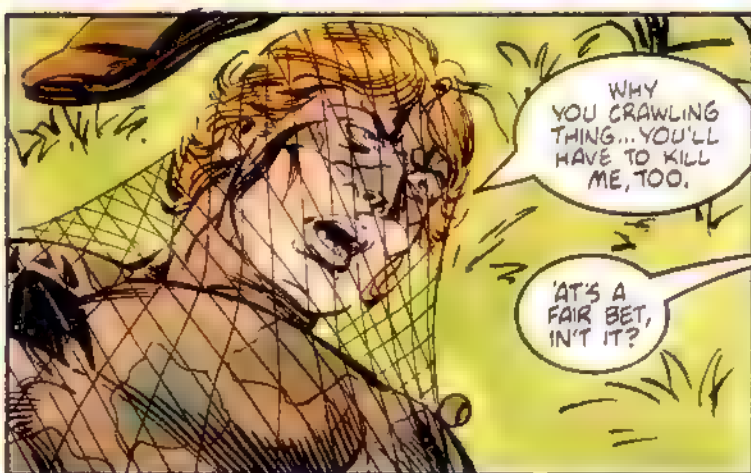
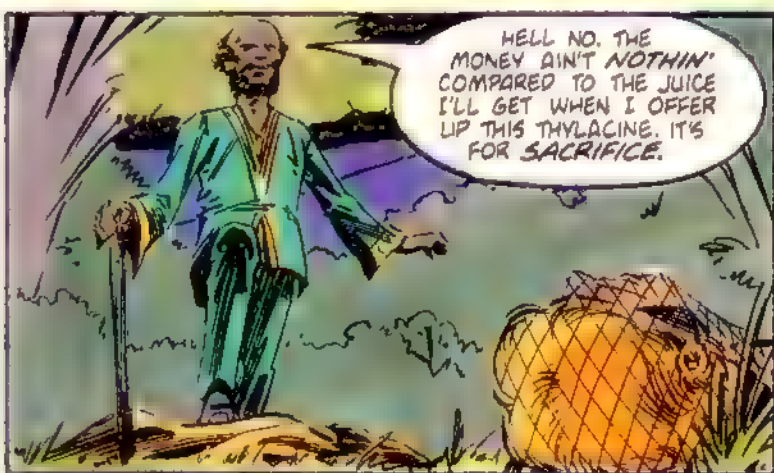
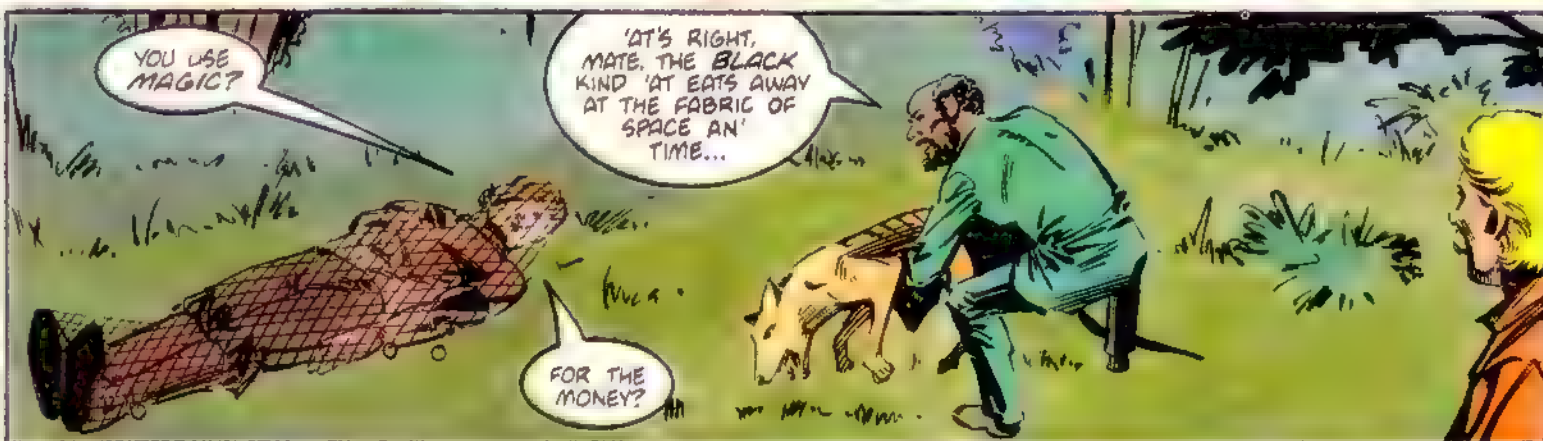
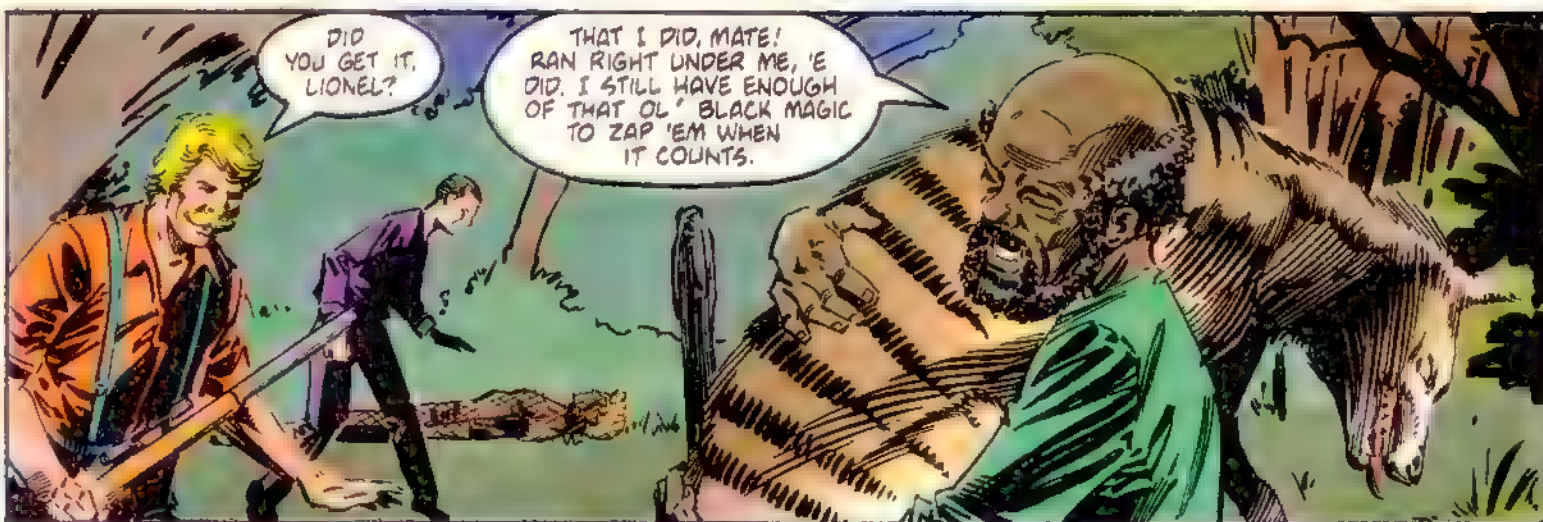


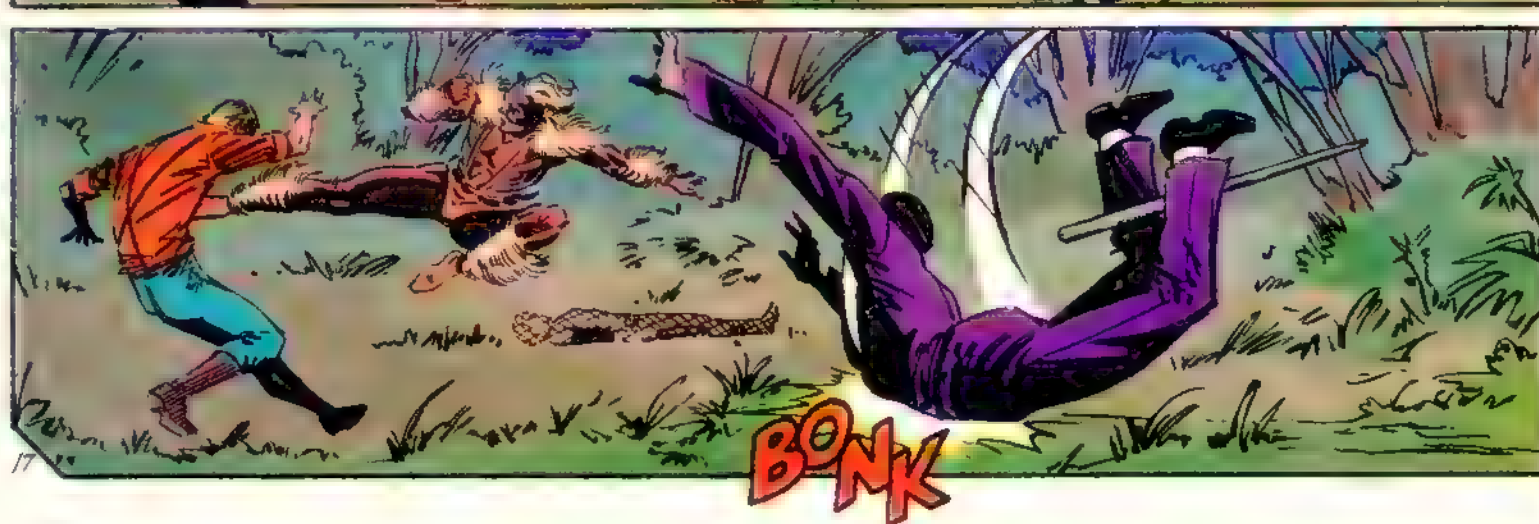
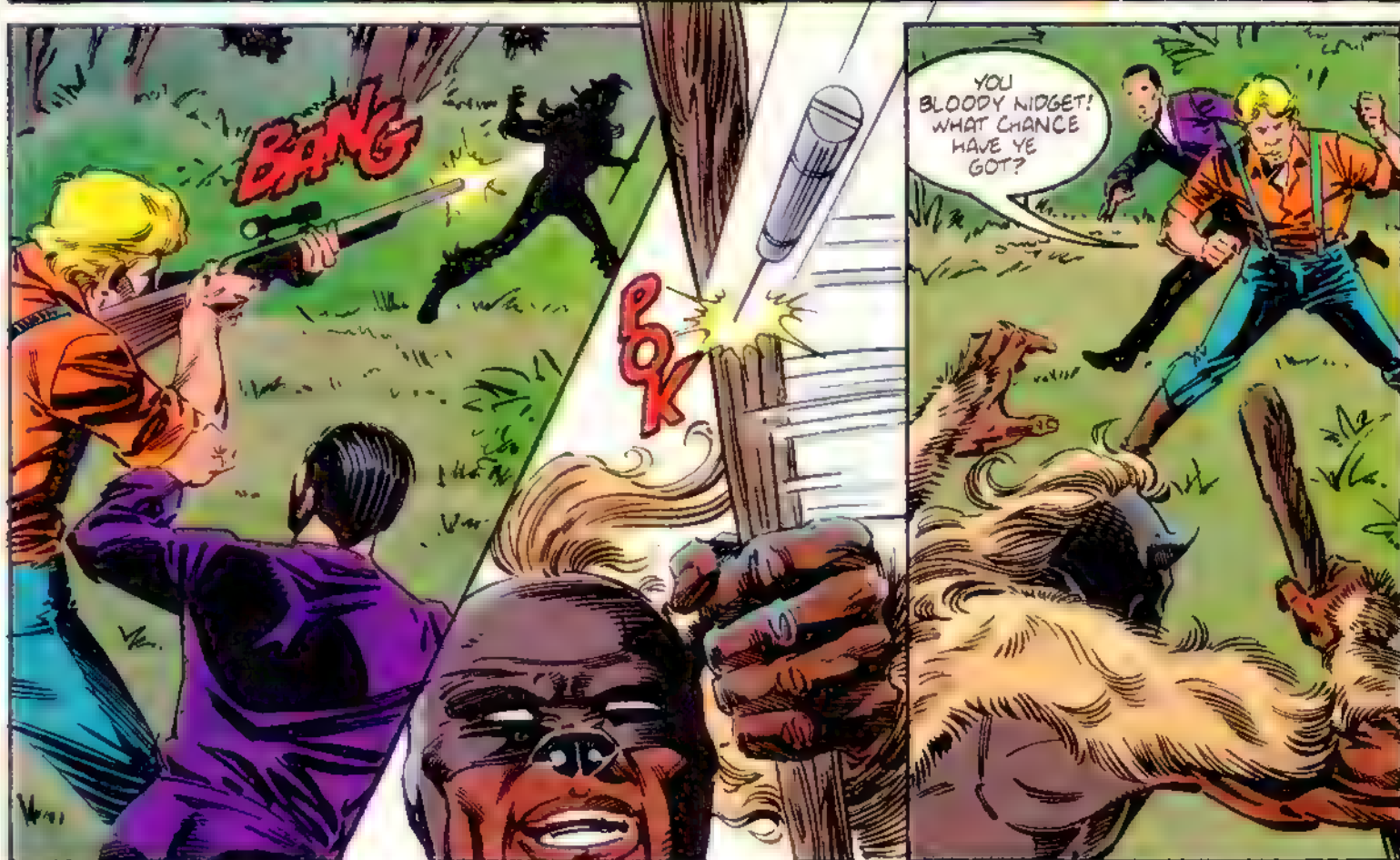
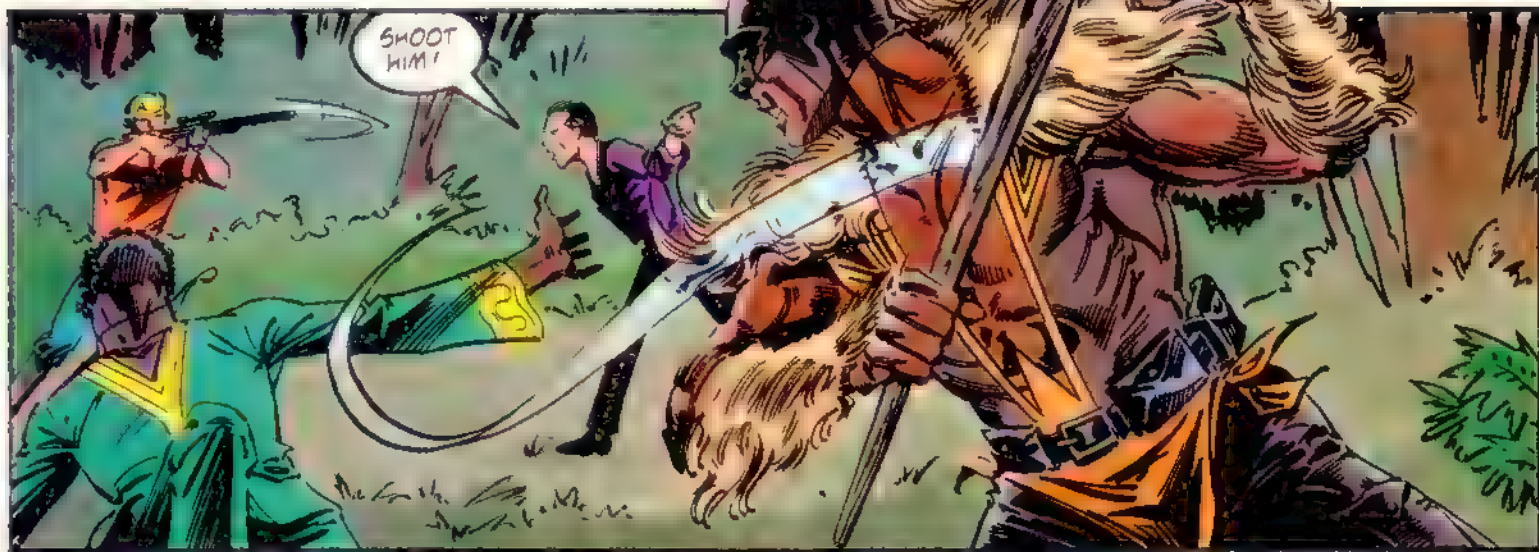
DISCREETLY FINGERING HIS BEEPER THE BADGER ATTEMPTS TO DISARM THE THYLACINE WITH FLATTERY.

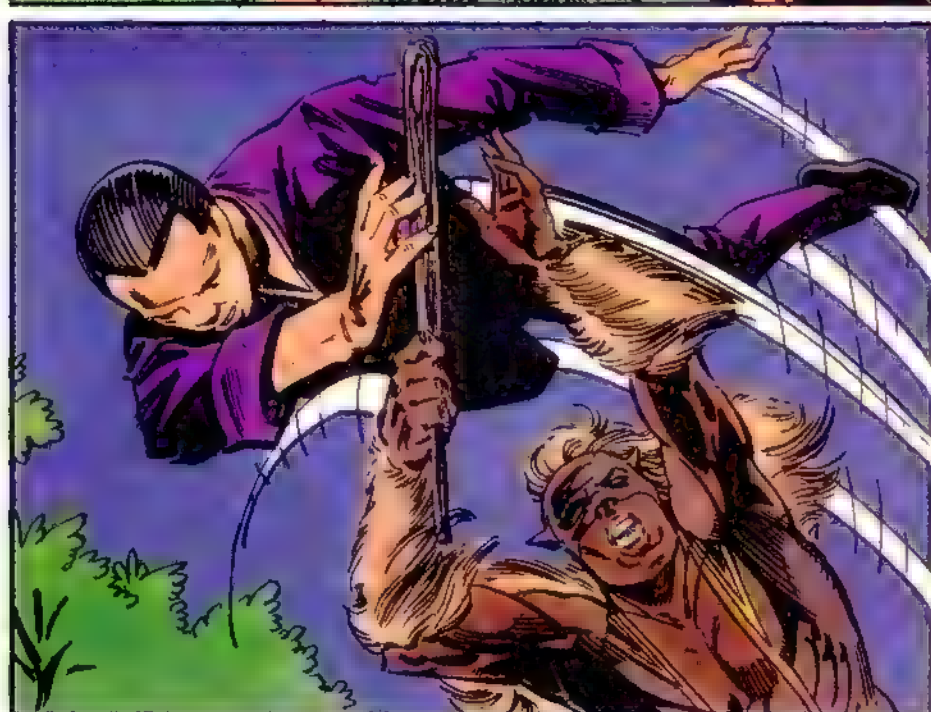


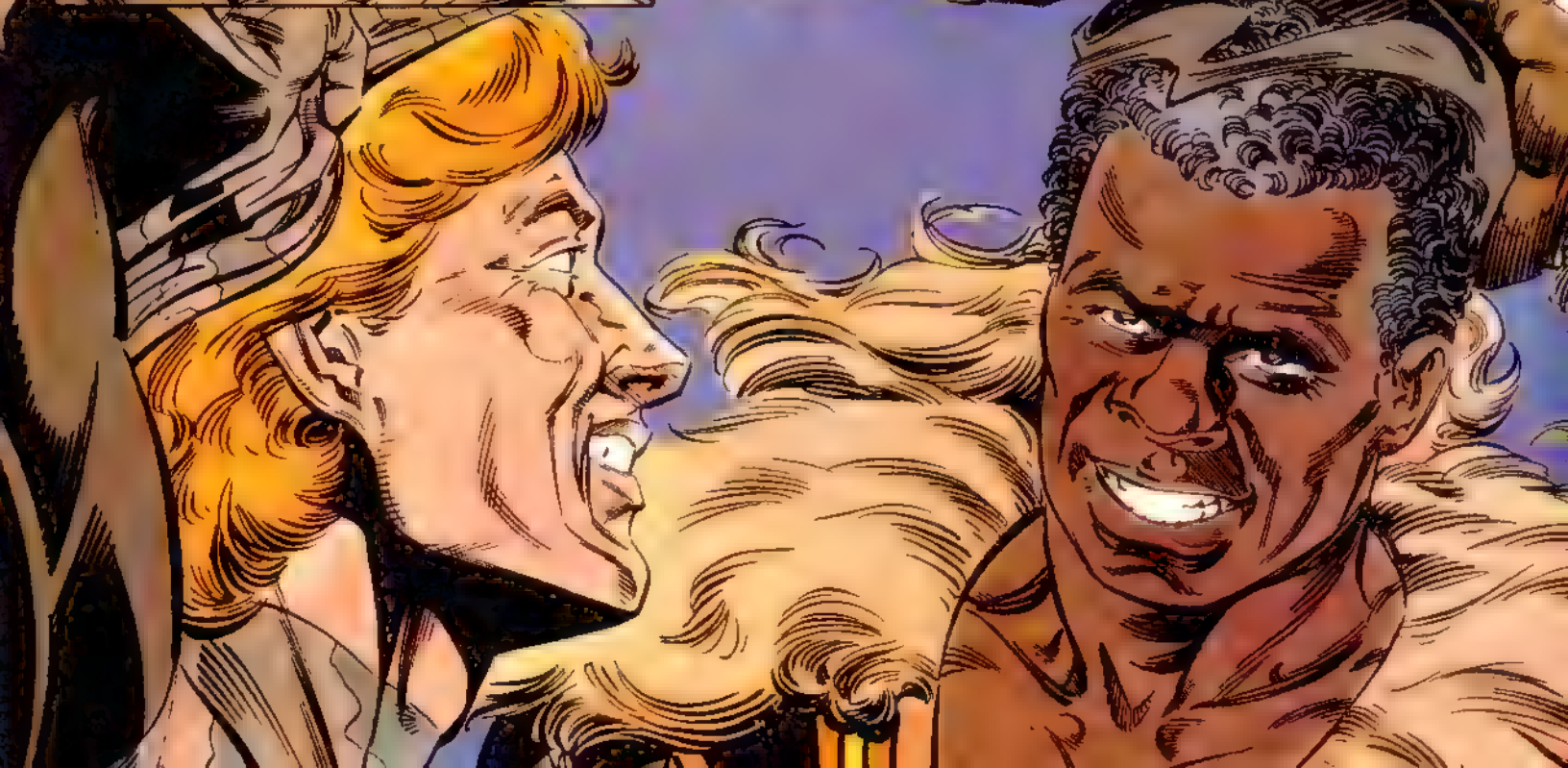
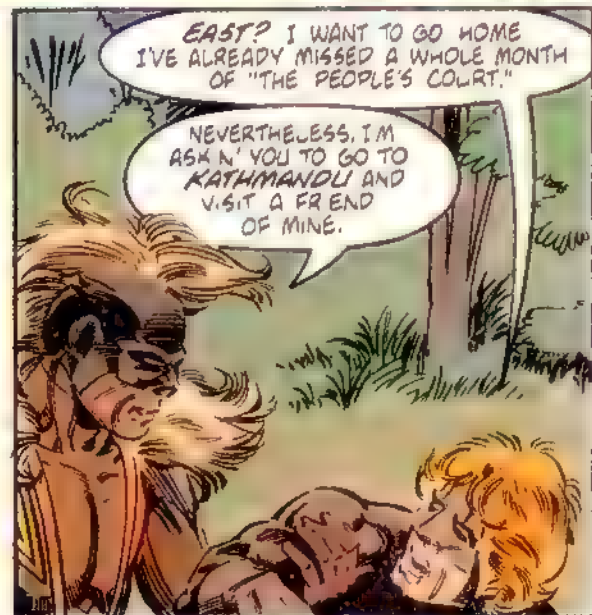
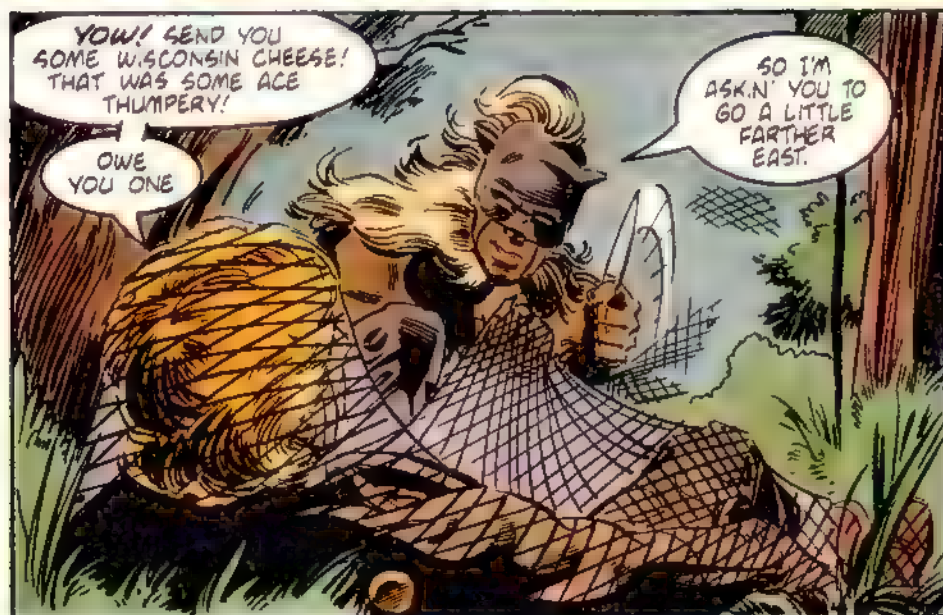
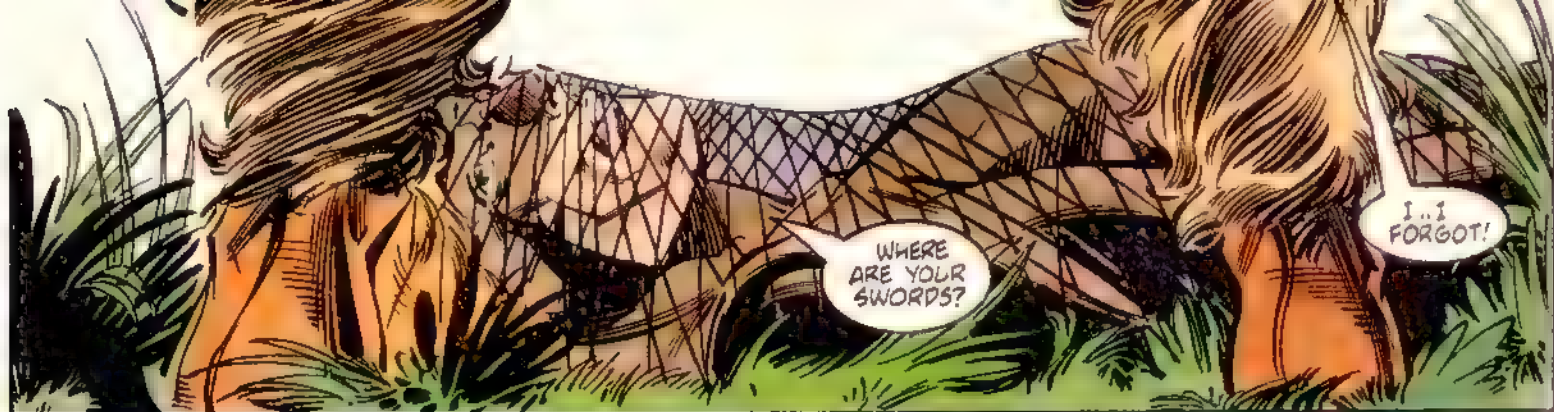


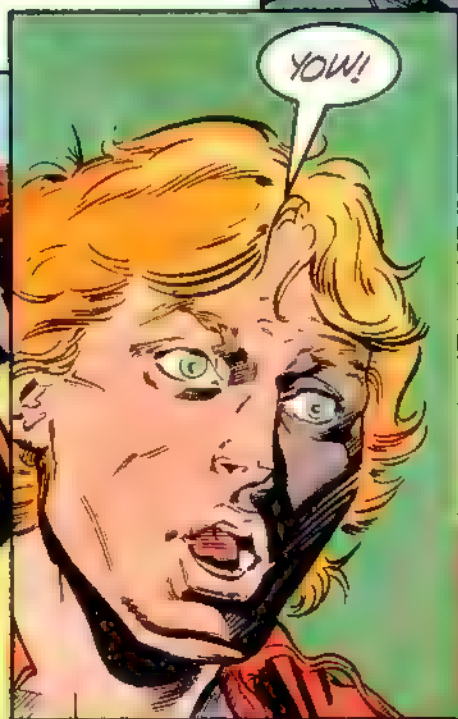
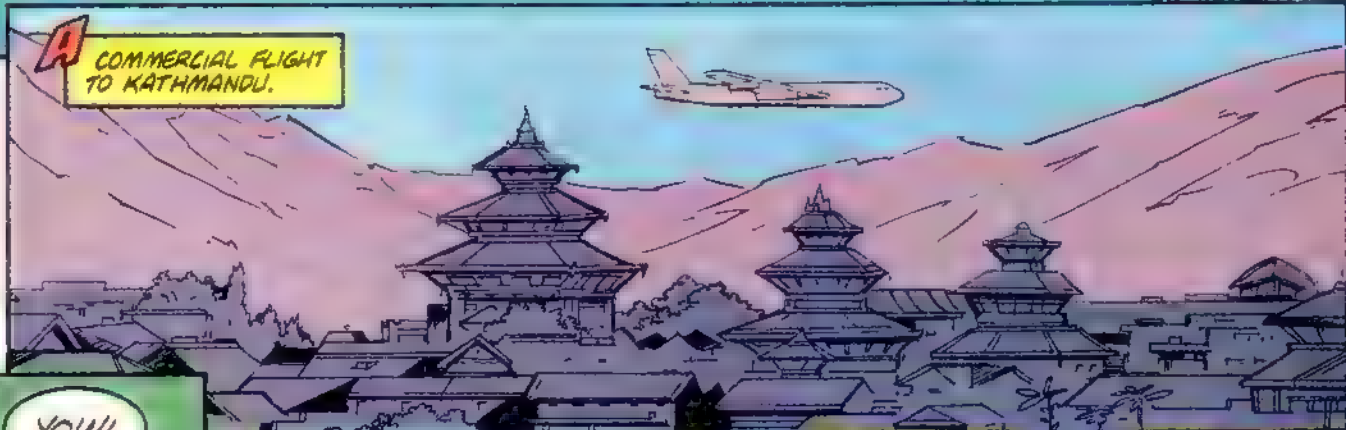
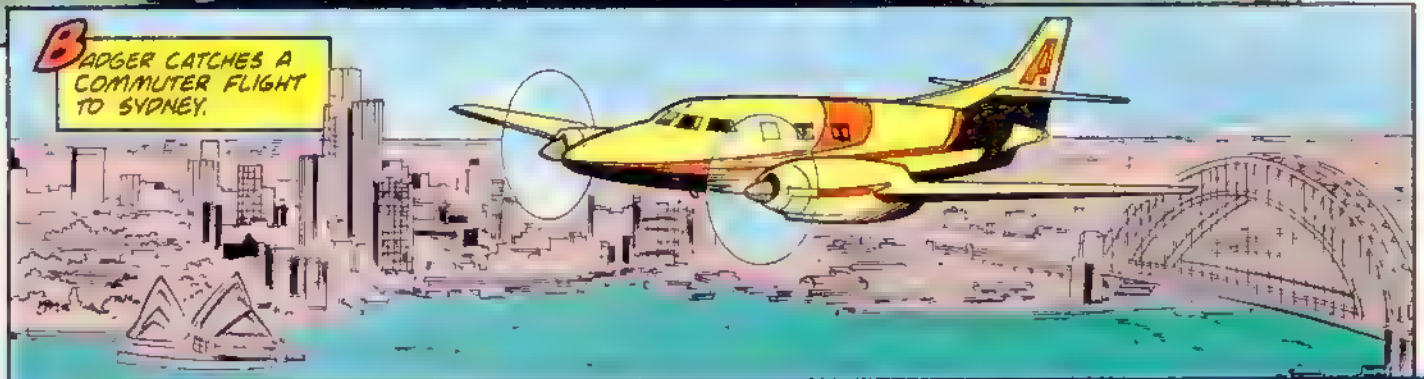
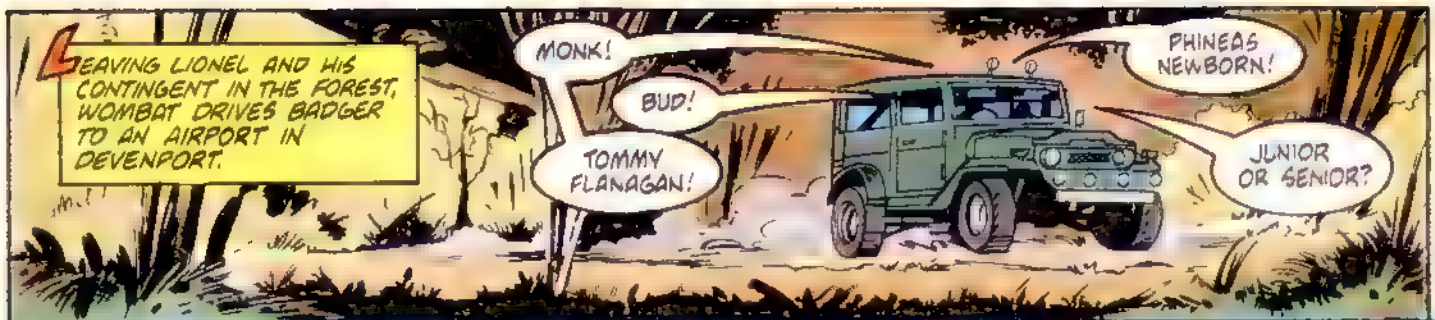












next month:

SEARCH for the
SNOWMAN



